

PAPER MONEY OF HAÏTI



A Pictorial History for the Non-Numismatist



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During the mid 1600's French *boucaniers*, "buccaneers" (i.e. pirates) based on the Cayman Islands and the Isle of Tortuga began establishing plantations on the western end of the island of Hispaniola, "the Spanish Island." Hispaniola was just a few miles to the south of Tortuga and had originally been named *La Española*, "little Spain," when it was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, but had become more commonly known by the Latinized version of that name. In 1664 the buccaneers established a town called *Port-du-Paix*, the "port of peace," on the north coast of Hispaniola directly across from Tortuga. In September 1697 the Nine Years War between France and the Grand Coalition, which included Spain, was ended by the treaty of Ryswick, by whose terms Spain ceded the western third of Hispaniola to France. The eastern two-thirds, which remained a colony of Spain, was called *Santo Domingo*, and eventually (1820) became the Dominican Republic; the western third, now a colony of France, was called *Saint (St.) Domingue* and eventually (1804) became Haiti.

The French Revolution began in July 1789, and in September 1792 the French declared their country to be a republic, *La République Française*. Meanwhile, in August 1791 the black slaves of St. Domingue revolted and began murdering the French landowners. A long and bloody war ensued as the French Republic sent in troops to try to recover its control of the valuable island. During this time, in 1795 Spain ceded its eastern two-thirds of Hispaniola, which was poor and underpopulated, to France.

At some time during the period 1792–1804 the *République Française* issued the island's first paper money. Notes were issued by the *Département du Port-de-Paix*, *Administration des Îles Sous le Vent*, the "department of Port-du-Paix, administration of the Leeward Islands," and notes of almost identical design were issued by the *Administration de St. Domingue*, "the administration of St. Domingue." Both notes were for 4 *Escalins*; an *escalin* was the equivalent of 15 French *sous* (or *sols*) or one Spanish *reale*.

The French were finally defeated by tropical heat, disease, and the "black army." The surviving French soldiers surrendered in 1803, and on 1 January 1804 the victorious blacks (and mulattos) declared the entire island to be *La République d'Haiti*, "the Republic of Haiti."* But from 1807 to 1811 the northern and eastern parts of Haiti were styled first *L'État d'Haiti*, "the state of Haiti," ruled by Henri-Christophe until 1811, when it became *Le Royaume d'Haiti*, "the kingdom of Haiti," ruled by king Henri (Christophe) I until 1820. Meanwhile the south and west continued as *La République d'Haiti* under its president, Alexandre Pétion. In 1808 Spain was able to recover its control of the eastern two-thirds of the island, *Santo Domingo*.

During these years the Haitians were using the French *livre* (of 20 *sols* or *sous*, each of 12 *deniers*) as their money. In 1813 Pétion's southern *République* tried a "limited experiment" with paper money; it is said to have issued *Billets de Caisse*, "Cash Notes," dated 8 Mai 1813 in denominations of 5, 50, 100, and 500 *Gourdes*. This *Gourde*** was a new monetary unit valued at 8 *livres* and 5 *sols* or 11 *escalins*. But no note of this 1813 issue is known to have survived.

The earliest known surviving fiscal paper to use the name *Haiti* or *Hayti* is a pay warrant for "\$15.00" (*gourdes*) dated le 10 février 1816 signed by president Pétion. On this warrant the printed letterhead and the overstamped coat-of-arms both read *République d'Hayti*, whereas Pétion is named as the president of *Haiti*.***

* This was the world's first successful slave revolt, and Haiti is the second oldest republic in the western hemisphere.

** This was later known as the "first gourde," which fell further in value till 1871, when it was exchanged 10:1 for the "second gourde."

*** *Haiti* is derived from the Taino word *Ayiti*, "land of the mountains." On the republic's earliest coins the name is spelled *Hayti* until after 1818; by 1827 the spelling has become *Haiti*. Notice the diaeresis (the two little dots) over the first letter *i*.

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In 1820 king Henri I was disabled by a stroke and so committed suicide; the northern and southern portions of Haiti were soon reunited under president Jean-Pierre Boyer. In 1821 the neighboring colony of Santo Domingo declared its independence from Spain and became the Dominican Republic, but only a few weeks later the Haitians overran the entire island and made Santo Domingo a part of the republic of Haiti.

For years Haiti had been seeking recognition of its independence by the major European powers, but without success. Finally in 1822 France agreed to recognize Haiti, but only in return for an indemnity of 100,000,000 gold francs to reimburse France for its losses of property and investments and the costs of its war in Haiti. Haiti had no choice but to accept these terms.

The first reference to a bank in Haiti was in 1825, when several entrepreneurs held discussion with the German banking house of Hermann Hendrick to establish a commercial bank in Haiti. But nothing came of these discussions.

Meanwhile the French became even more demanding. In 1825 king Charles X arbitrarily increased the claimed indemnity to 150,000,000 gold francs,* and he sent twelve French warships mounting 150 guns to Port-au-Prince to back up his demand. The first installment of 30,000,000 gold francs was due to be paid in September 1826. Haiti was able to borrow 24,000,000 francs in Paris, but to make up the other 6,000,000 francs it had to ship away all of the country's disposable cash and coin to France. This export of all of Haiti's metal money compelled the government to issue its own paper money, with the earliest note dated 25 Septembre (1826). On 16 April 1827 the Haitian legislature passed a law creating *La Banque d'Haïti*, "the Bank of Haiti," modelled on *La Banque de France* and initially capitalized at 6,000,000 francs.

Beginning in 1827 there was a series of issues of paper money by *La République* (not by *La Banque*) in denominations of 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 16, 25, and 100 gourdes, printed in various formats in inks of varying colors on paper of various colors and thicknesses, all but one with blank reverses. Because of later losses of records to fires, civil commotions, earthquakes, explosions,** etc., it is no longer possible to ascertain the precise sequence of issue of any of the earlier 1827-dated notes; the latest notes were issued in the 1850's and 1860's.

Meanwhile, in 1838 Louis Philippe, the "citizen king" of France, agreed to reduce the total indemnity claim to 60,000,000 gold francs. In 1844 the eastern two thirds of Hispaniola succeeded in breaking away from Haitian rule and reestablishing itself as the independent Dominican Republic.***

During the 72 years from 1843 to 1915 Haiti had 20 rulers, of whom 16 were either overthrown or murdered, two died in office (one of these was probably poisoned) and one was killed when the national arsenal in the palace blew up (accidentally?);** only one president succeeded in finishing his term of office, handing over his power peacefully, and then retiring honorably into private life. There were coups and counter-coups as one military officer after another displaced his predecessor.

In 1849 some high-ranking officers thought that president Faustin Soulouque should have even greater authority and that he could get this by assuming a loftier title, so in 1849 Haiti was declared to be an empire under emperor Faustin I. There was only one issue of paper money, a 2 gourde note dated 16 Avril 1851, by this *Empire d'Haïti* before Faustin was forced to abdicate in January 1859 and Haiti became a republic again.

* This amount was five times the total of Haiti's annual export revenue.

** By 1912 the National Palace /National Arsenal had blown up three times.

*** Interestingly, in 1860 the Dominican Republic *voluntarily* requested to return to its original status as a colony of Spain, in order to have Spanish protection against further Haitian attacks. It remained a Spanish colony until 1865, when it again became independent.

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In 1868 president Sylvain Salnave got a law passed to make him president-for-life, but this effort provoked an immediate insurrection. On 8 May dissidents in the south set up their *État Méridional d'Haïti*, "State of Southern Haiti" under president Michel Domingue, and this *Gouvernement du Sud d'Haïti* issued a series of 2, 4, 12, 24, 25, 48, and 100 gourde notes dated 13 October 1868. Civil war dragged on and the exchange rate of the gourde (supposedly 5:1 to the US gold dollar) plummeted to 4000:1 by December 1869. In that month Salnave fled to the Dominican Republic, the separate southern state came to an end, and its president, Michel Domingue, was appointed vice president of the newly reunited Haiti. Salnave was deported back to Haiti, where he was promptly tried and then shot on the steps of the National Palace. The gourde rose to 70:1 but eventually fell back to 400:1 by the following July.

During these civil commotions and monetary gyrations there was an issue of notes authorized by a law of 29 Octobre 1869 and denominated not in gourdes but rather in *piastres fortes*, "hard (or strong) piastres." The piastre was then the equivalent of the "Spanish dollar," the large silver 8 reales coin, and also of the US silver dollar. These new notes, supposedly exchangeable for silver, were presumably so denominated in order to encourage their acceptance by the people. The 10 piastres fortes note is extremely rare, and it is not certain whether any other denominations were issued.

Because it had no bullion backing the gourde gradually fell further in value. In 1871 the gourde was devalued; ten old "first gourdes" were replaced by one "second gourde." The new notes were issued in denominations of "\$10" and "\$20"** dated 22 Juillet 1871. Only thirteen months later the gourde was again devalued, this time by a "third gourde" at the rate of 300:1 by a law of 26 Aout 1872.

In August 1874 a new law required that all the old paper money should be recalled and redeemed, and a loan was floated in Paris for this purpose. But greedy foreign bankers and unscrupulous in both Europe and Haiti, agents conspired to defraud the Haitian government by charging all sorts of fees, commission, and discounts; Haiti ended up receiving in cash only about two-thirds of the amount for which it became indebted. In May 1875 two Haitian generals and one wealthy landowner were arrested for participating in the fraud; two of them were killed and one escaped to a US gunboat.

In September 1875 the Haitian government granted to A. H. Lazare, a US citizen, the concession to establish a bank in Haiti. The new *Banque National d'Haïti*, "National Bank of Haiti," was to be initially capitalized at "\$1,500,000 metal" (i.e. bullion), of which the Haitian government would provide \$500,000 and Lazare was to provide \$1,000,000, to be deposited by him within one year, by 1 September 1875. When this date arrived, the government had deposited its money, but Lazare could not come up with his. He was granted an extension to 15 October, but still failed to raise the required sum, so the government declared his contract void.**

The National Bank did issue a set of notes dated Sept(emb)re. 1875, denominated like the 1869 notes, in piastres. These were the first Haitian notes to be printed abroad, by the American Bank Note Company of New York, so they are the first Haitian notes to have been printed abroad, to have engraved vignettes including a portrait, and (with one exception) to have a printed reverse.

Haiti insisted that France accept responsibility for the frauds of the 1875 loan. France claimed that Haiti owed 58,000,000 francs, but in 1876 agreed to reduce the debt to 40,000,000 francs; Haiti counter claimed that it owed only 21,000,000 francs plus accumulated interest at 6%.

* Notice the use of the dollar sign \$ on these notes.

** The government benevolently gave Lazare \$10,000 to pay his travelling expenses and costs of advertising and also appointed him Haitian consul-general at New York. Lazare later had the nerve to make a claim in the United States against Haiti, and the arbiter, a US Supreme Court justice, awarded him \$117,500. But the State Department overruled this award and Lazare got no more money from Haiti.

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Louis-Félicité Lysius Salomon Jeune spent 28 years "in exile" studying in Europe, some time in London but mostly in Paris. He was 64 years old when he returned to Haiti in August 1879, and three months later he was elected president. Realizing that Haiti's credit rating was zero, he promptly undertook to revitalize *La Banque Nationale*, using his extensive French connections for this. He arranged for a loan by a consortium of French banks led by *La Banque de l'Union Parisienne*, and on 30 July 1880 the Haitian minister of Finance signed a contract at Paris giving the *Banque Nationale d'Haïti* concession, with its exclusive right to issue paper money in Haiti, to *La Société Générale du Crédit Industriel et Commercial* for 50 years. The revitalized *Banque Nationale* was now recapitalized at 20,000,000 francs, with each share worth 500 francs; it began operations in the autumn of 1880. In September the gourde was put on the gold standard at the rate of one Gourde equal to 5 French francs, and *La Banque Nationale* issued its first new banknotes, printed in Paris. Salomon Jeune also resumed installment payments to France of the balances due from the loans of 1825, 1874, and 1876.* There were issues by the Republic (not by the National Bank) of 1 and 2 gourde notes in 1883, 1884, and 1887 (sometimes called "Salomon first," "Salomon second," and "Salomon third" issues by numismatists).

But *La Banque Nationale* was being managed (some said mismanaged) by its principal owners, the French bankers. It had no savings department, paid a very low interest rate to depositors, and even discouraged small depositors. In 1885 there was a scandal involving bank orders which had already been paid being put back into circulation and paid a second time. Two officers of the bank, one Frenchman and one Englishman, were sentenced to three years in prison.

On 27 November 1888 the "Revolutionary Committee of the North" declared itself to be a provisional government and elected Louis Mondestin Florville Hyppolite president of *La République Septentrionale d'Haïti*, "the Republic of Northern Haiti." This new republic issued notes printed by the Homer Lee Bank Note Co. of New York. On 17 October 1889 Hyppolite was elected president of the entire country, so the separate northern republic came to an end after only eleven months.

In 1893 the minister of Finance proposed the creation of a second bank, to be called *La Banque du Port-au-Prince*, to be capitalized at \$1,000,000. But *La Banque Nationale* complained that its concession granted it the sole right-of-issue until 1930, so the proposal for a second bank was dropped.

In 1902 Anténor Firmin, minister to France and one of the three contenders for president of Haiti, went to his native town of Cap-Haitien and began fomenting trouble. The primary assembly met on 29 June to elect a president, and the next day Firmin's supporters started a fight. One of Firmin's supporters was admiral Hamilton Killick, who took his gunboat *La Crête-à-Pierrot* to Gonaïves, on the northwest coast, where he was elected a deputy to the assembly. One of Firmin's two opponents for president was general Nord-Alexis, and Nord-Alexis hired the German steamship *Markomannia* to bring arms and ammunition from Port-au-Prince to Cap-Haitien to arm his supporters. Killick seized the *Markomannia*, so the Germans sent their gunboat *Panther* to seize the *Crête-à-Pierrot*. When the *Panther* suddenly appeared on 6 September, Killick hurried from shore back to his ship, but the German captain gave him only five minutes to surrender. Knowing he could not defend his ship from seizure, Killick asked for fifteen minutes, which the German granted. This gave Killick time to send his crew ashore, but Dr. Coles insisted on remaining. Killick then set a powder trail to the magazine, he and Coles sat on deck and wrapped themselves in the Haitian flag, Killick touched the end of his cigar to the powder train, and *La Crête-à-Pierrot* blew up. It was sometime during this conflict that Firmin's supporters at Gonaïves issued 1 and 2 gourde notes in the name of the Republic. But Firmin had to flee the country in October and Nord-Alexis marched into the assembly and compelled it to elect him president in December.

* Haiti never missed a payment on these debts until her government, treasury, and bank were all taken over by the US Marines in 1915.

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"The Consolidation Scandal" occurred in 1904. After a month of investigation the grand jury of Port-au-Prince indicted eleven men of defrauding the Haitian government of \$1,257,993. The eleven included a former director, two employees, and three former chief officers of *La Banque Nationale*, plus a former minister of the Finance; not one Haitian bank employee was involved. *La Banque Nationale* publicly threatened to deny any future help to the government if its former employees were not freed and allowed to leave Haiti, but the government held firm. The bank's director, the chief of the bank's branch offices, a subdirector, and the head of the department of bills and acceptances (two Frenchmen and two Germans) went on trial before the *Cour d'Assises*, "Criminal Tribunal," on 28 November, with the French and German ambassadors in attendance. The evidence was overwhelming. On 24 December one man was acquitted, two were sentenced to hard labor for 2 or 4 years, and one to hard labor for life.

In 1905 president Nord-Alexis demanded issuance of an avalanche of paper money to pay Haiti's debts. *La Banque Nationale* had not issued any banknotes since 1880 and it refused to accede to Nord-Alexis's demand for more and more paper money, so Nord-Alexis had his government revoke *La Banque*'s charter. Haiti was again virtually bankrupt. The United States had seized control of the customs of the Dominican Republic in that year to satisfy that republic's debtors, so Haiti voluntary accepted a US receivership of its customs; this receivership lasted until 1941. In 1908 Nord-Alexis issued a note that is unusual because it has his large portrait on both ends of the obverse.

Meanwhile, after the demise of *La Banque Nationale* there was a five-year period of intense competition among French, German, and American banking interests for the charter for a new bank in Haiti. In October 1910 the Haitian legislature voted to dissolve the old *Banque Nationale d'Haiti* and created a new *Banque National de la République d'Haiti*; the new National Bank of the Republic promptly moved into the old National Bank's headquarters. Of the new bank's shares 75% were held by the French, 20% by Americans and Germans, and 5% by the *Berliner Handelsgesellschaft*, the "Berlin Trading Company." These investors made a loan of \$13,000,000 to capitalize the new bank but the loan was heavily "discounted," and the bank only received \$9,400,000 cash to begin its operations.

In early 1911 president Antoine Simon (Antoine Sam) signed an agreement with M. George Neuba, a former director of the defunct *Banque Nationale* who was representing a group of Belgian capitalists, to create a *Banque Agricole et Industrielle d'Haiti*, an "Agricultural and Industrial Bank of Haiti." But then president Antoine Sam was kicked out of office by Cincinnatus Leconte, who opposed the plan for another bank. Meanwhile The National City Bank of New York, the biggest investor in Haiti and a significant shareholder in *La Banque Nationale de la République*, was feeling threatened by that bank's inflationary monetary policies. So National City Bank schemed with the US Department of State to somehow gain complete control of that bank. In 1912 the exchange rate of the gourde was officially set at five per US dollar; people would (and still do) often speak of 5 gourdes as being a "Haitian dollar."

The National Palace at Port-au-Prince was where most of the nation's guns and gunpowder were stored in the basement. At 3 a.m. on 8 August 1912 this powder supply blew up, killing Leconte and several hundred soldiers and destroying the palace. During the subsequent three years Haiti had five presidents, of whom every one either died in office (one was probably poisoned), or was overthrown; the last of these five, Vilbrun Guillaume Sam, was literally dragged out of his hiding place in a bathroom of the French embassy, then lynched and torn apart by an angry mob on 27 July 1915. During these chaotic years there had been an issue of locally printed *Bon du Trésor* notes dated in January 1915.

Earlier that month the US Navy had sent admiral William Caperton to to Haiti, where he had arrived at Cap-Haïtien on 2 July. Hearing of the disorder in Port-au-Prince Caperton sailed there, arriving just three hours after the lynching of president Guillaume Sam. The admiral immediately sent 330 armed sailors ashore to disarm the Haitian militia and to calm the citizens. Thus began nineteen years of US military intervention in Haiti.

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More US troops arrived, until eventually there were 3000 marines in Haiti. Already controlling the Haitian customs, the United States now took over the entire government, everything except the courts and the education system. The National City Bank of New York seized all the shares of *La Banque Nationale de la République d'Haïti* and so became its sole owner (until 1935); on 15 September it pegged the official exchange rate at 5 gourdes to one US dollar (it remained at this rate till 1989). Although *La Banque Nationale de la République* had been established back in 1910, it had never issued any notes bearing this new title. So now it found some unissued 1914 notes of the *République* and had them overprinted with a vertical red text making them valid as its own notes; in December 1916 old 1 gourde notes were overprinted, but in April 1919 both 1 and 2 gourde notes were overprinted. One of the signers of the notes was R(oger) L. Farnham, a vice-president of The National City Bank and president of the National Railway of Haiti.

Meanwhile the National City Bank was arranging to have its own distinctive notes printed in New York. *La Banque Nationale de la République d'Haïti's* "first issue" comprised notes from 1 through 10 gourdes (a 20 gourdes note was planned but never issued) which refer to the *Convention du 2 Mai 1919*; these notes feature the vignette of a banana plant and so are known to numismatists as "the banana plant notes." The earlier notes still bear the signature of R. L. Farnham and the later notes the signature of C. E. "Sunshine Charley" Mitchell, who had become president of The National City Bank of New York in 1921.

In August 1925 the US military government had arranged for the Haitians to "elect" Philippe Sudré Dartiguenave as their (puppet) president. But in May 1922 Dartiguenave refused to sign an agreement concerning the repayment of debts to The National City Bank, so the bank used its influence to have the president promptly dismissed.

After 1924 there were four more series of notes of *La Banque Nationale de la République* in denominations from 1 through 100 gourdes, all printed in New York and all still specifying repayment at the rate of 5 gourdes per one US dollar. In August 1933 the United States finally agreed to end its occupation, and the last troops left Haiti on 14 August 1934. Also in 1934 Haiti finally recovered a controlling interest in its own *Banque Nationale de la République*, but it continued having its banknotes printed in New York.

In 1947 Haiti passed a law creating certificates of *Libération Financière*. These were apparently sold to raise the money to pay off the last of Haiti's debts, for indeed Haiti did finally buy out all the foreign owners of its bank and so gained complete control. In the next 32 years there were eight more issues of gourde notes, some printed in New York and some in London. Meanwhile presidents came and went. In 1962 the government, chronically in need of more money, got another forced loan by issuing *Certificats de Libération Économique* salary in the form of these certificates, which promised that the holder could draw his 5% interest quarterly and then redeem the certificate for full face value after five years. But hardly anybody ever bothered to try collecting any interest.

In 1970 *La Banque Nationale de la République* issued its first 250 and 500 gourde notes, and also began having its banknotes feature portraits of historic Haitians, including of course then-president-for-life Dr. François "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

In 1979, during the rule of president-for-life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, a law of 17 August dropped the *Nationale* from the bank's title.

In 1980 the American Bank Note Company printed some notes on Tyvek,[®] a synthetic high-density polyethylene fiber which was supposed to be more durable than paper. The renamed *Banque de la République* had some of its "first issue" notes printed on Tyvek and was the first country to issue such notes into circulation. However, the ink did not bond well to the fiber, and the fibers did not stand up well in the tropical climate, so the use of Tyvek for currency was soon abandoned. (N.B. the 1980's Tyvek was not the same as the "polymer" now being used by many countries for currency.)

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More issues of banknotes (all printed on paper) followed. The 1983 "second" issue comprised four denominations, of which the lowest had the usual portrait of the late Papa Doc Duvalier but the three highest all had a portrait of Baby Doc. Up till this time it had the custom for a particular issue to have all its denominations printed by the same printer, usually The American Bank Note Company of New York, but occasionally one of the two London banknote printers, Waterlow and Sons or Thomas de la Rue. For its 1983 issue *La Banque de la République* first used different printers: the American Bank Note Company, Thomas de la Rue, and Giesecke & Devrient of Munich, Germany. Thereafter it was quite usual for one issue of banknotes to use different printers for different denominations.

In February 1987 president-for-life Baby Doc Duvalier was forced to flee into exile. Some 1G and 2G banknotes were then found bearing a red overprint defacing the portrait of Papa Doc on the 1G paper and 2G Tyvek notes; these apparently had been overprinted by anti-Duvalierist exiles, probably in the United States. *La Banque* arranged an immediate "third issue" of notes from which all the Duvalier portraits had been removed.

In 1989 the official exchange rate of 5 gourdes = 1 US dollar was discontinued and the text referring to the old 5:1 exchange rate was removed from the banknotes. The gourde was now allowed to "float" and its value immediately began to drift, usually downward but occasionally upward, depending mainly upon the political situation in Haiti. Notes of this issue were the first to bear the *Année*, "year," of printing.

In mid-September 1994 US troops were deployed in Haiti in "Operation Freedom" to restore a democratically elected government in Haiti; the troops were removed after 6 1/2 months.

As the gourde fell further in value, there was virtually no use for the lowest value notes, so the 1G, 2G, and 5G denominations were dropped from the "seventh issue" in 2000. This was the first issue of Haiti banknotes to have an anticounterfeiting security strip embedded in the paper.

In 2001 Haiti celebrated the 200th anniversary of its first constitution by issuing a commemorative 20 gourde note alongside a "regular-issue" 20 gourde note. The two notes were sold together in a Collectors Souvenir Booklet." Then in 2004 Haiti celebrated the 200th anniversary of its declaration of independence by issuing a series of bicentennial banknotes from 10 through 500 gourdes, each bearing a portrait of a prominent hero of Haitian history. These were the first Haitian notes to bear texts in both French and Cr  ole.

By this time the gourde had fallen in value to about 25–26 to the US dollar, so the 10G note was worth about 40c US and the 500G note was worth about \$20 US. In 2004 *La Banque de la R  publique* issued Haiti's first 1000 gourde note, equivalent then to about \$40 US. This denomination had actually been first printed in 1999 but its issue was delayed because of some sort of legal technicalities, so it entered circulation at the same time as the 2004 notes. It was printed in French only (no Cr  ole).

It appears that *La Banque de la R  publique d'Haiti* may be planning to reissue notes of the 2000 type with slight changes in the titles of the signatories; a 25 gourde note has been issued dated *Ann  e 2006*. At that time the exchange rate was about 37 gourdes to one US dollar.

This 4 Escalins note was issued by the revolutionary French administration of *les îles Sous Le Vent*, "the Leeward Islands," at the town of Port-de-Paix, on the north coast of St.-Domingue. An escalin was the equivalent of 15 French sols or one Spanish real.



Two notes known.

P-A1

This 4 Escalins note was issued by the revolutionary French *Administration de St. Domingue*. Notice the similarity of its design and signature to the Port-de-Paix note.



One note known.

P-A11

(RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI)?

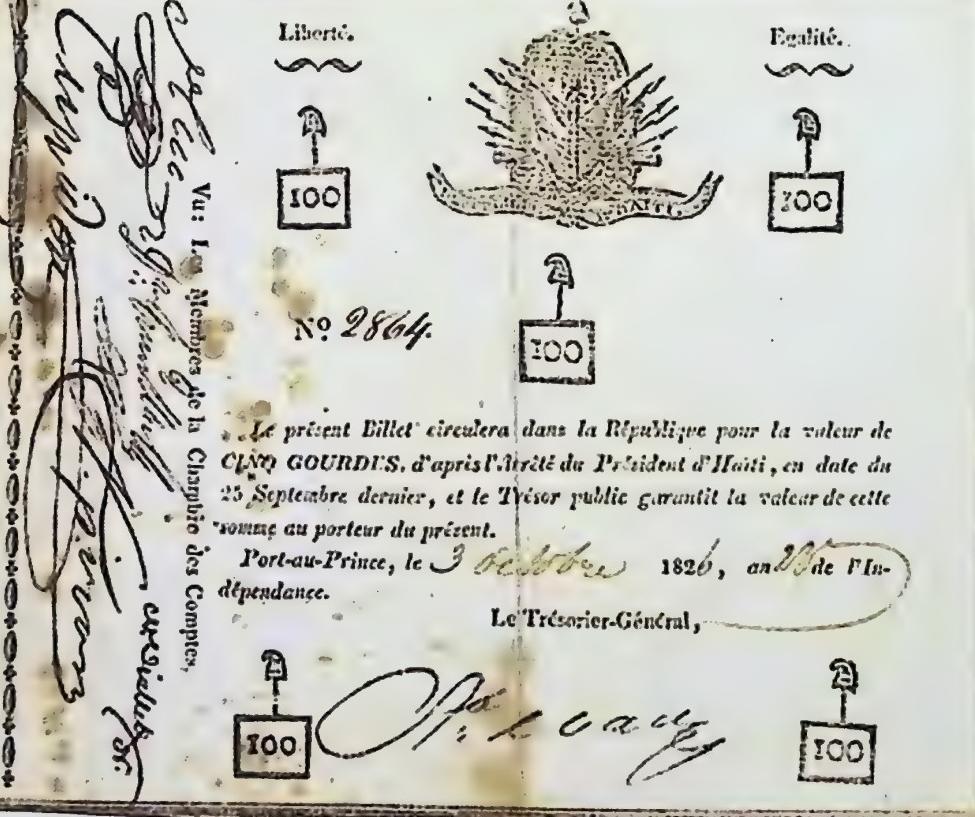
BILLET DE CAISSE
("Cash Note")
En date du 8 Mai 1813

Haiti's "first gourde" was established in 1813 at the
of 1 gourde equal to 8 3/4 French *livres* (= 175 *sols*
1 3/8 *écus*) or 11 2/3 Spanish *reals*.

There have been reports of such notes in denominations
10, and 50 Gourdes, but no note has been verified.

This is the earliest known note of *La République*;
it was issued from Port-au-Prince.

Cinq Gourdes.



Vu: Le Secrétaire d'Etat,

Cinq Gourdes.

Only one note known.

P-A53

Because of later civil disorders, archival fires, earthquakes, and other losses of records, it is now impossible to reconstruct the precise sequence of issue of most of these 1827-dated notes—the plainer notes were probably issued at various times during the period 1827–1851. The “fancy format” notes without portrait (P-33 to P-39) were probably issued during the 1850’s and it is certain that the “fancy format” notes with portrait of Geffrard (P-41 and P-42) were issued in the early or middle 1860’s. The references to “First Issue,” “Second Issue,” etc. are merely a numismatic convenience and may not be the correct sequence of issues.

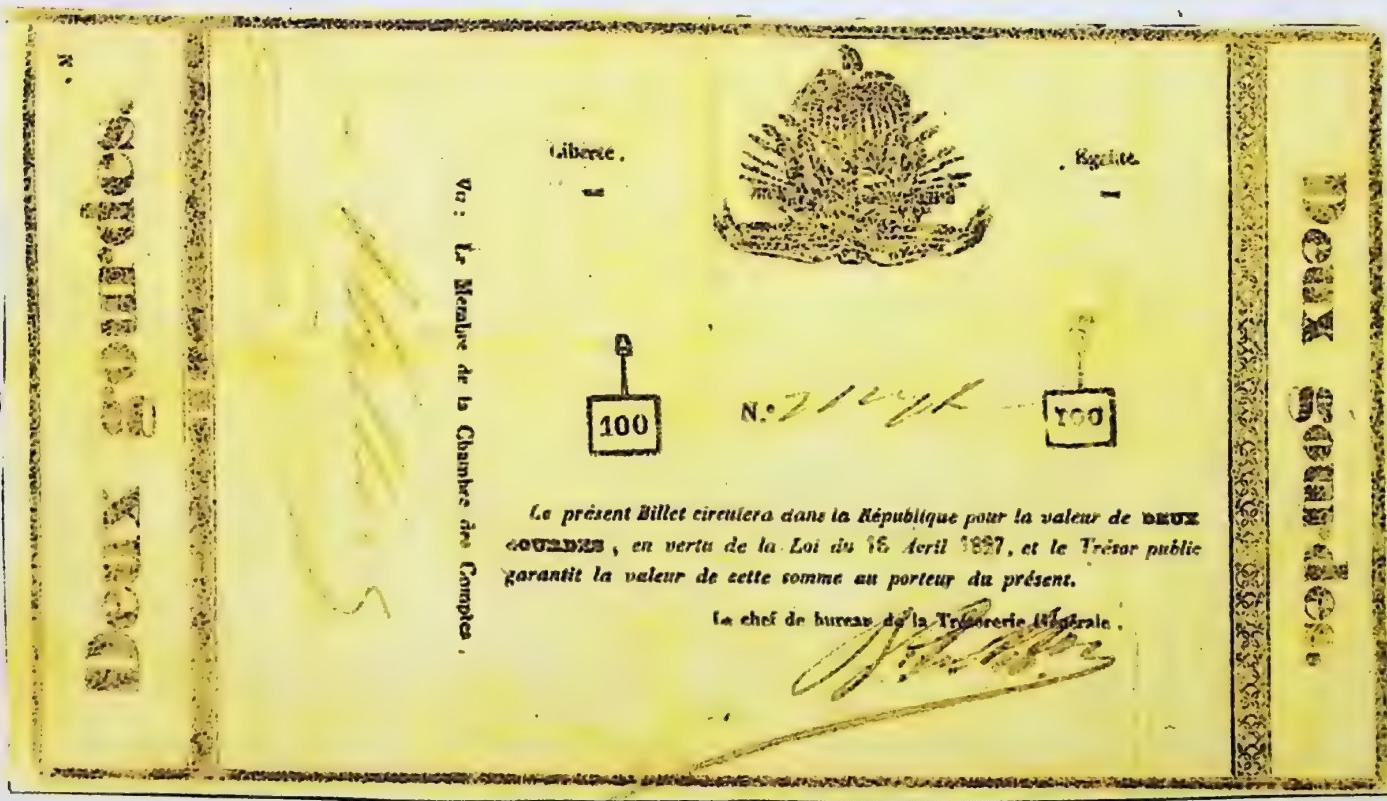
With one single exception all these 1827-dated notes have plain reverses. There are many minor varieties of several of these notes.

Printed on white or blue-green paper.



Some notes are signed by *Le Trésorier Général* and some by *Le Chef du Bureau de la Trésorerie Général*. One variety has the right UNE GOURDE in capital letters.

Printed on thin paper or on thick paper (sometimes watermarked).
Some notes lack the acute accent mark over the word *Égalité*.



P-2

No 5 Gourdes note of this type (P-3) has ever been confirmed.

10 G(ourdes) - in central frame.



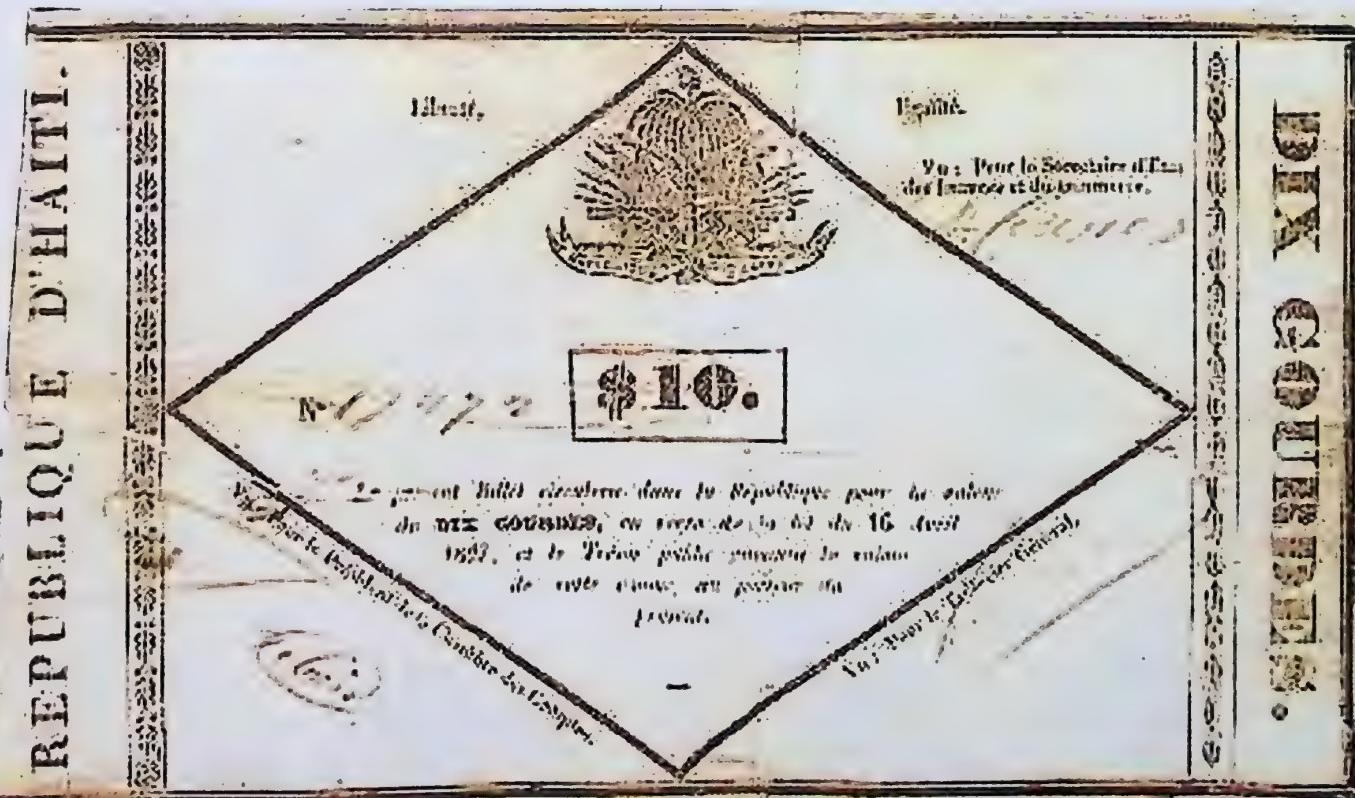
P-4

1000 (centimes) in central frame.



P-6A

\$10 (gourdes) in central frame.



P-6B

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI.

LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

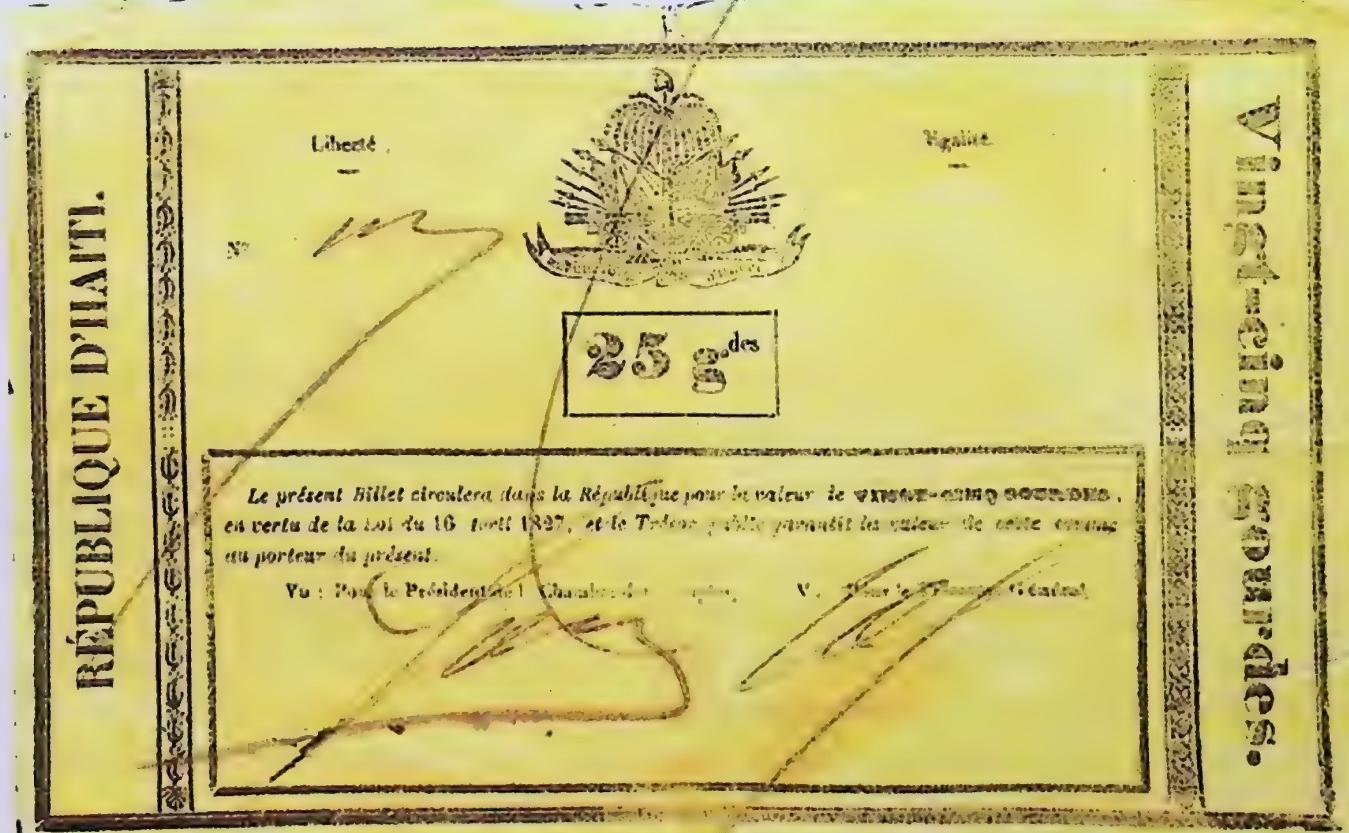
Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"First(?) Issue"

(Period 1827--1851)

2 with flat bottom. Printed on thin paper.



2 with curly bottom. Printed on thick paper.

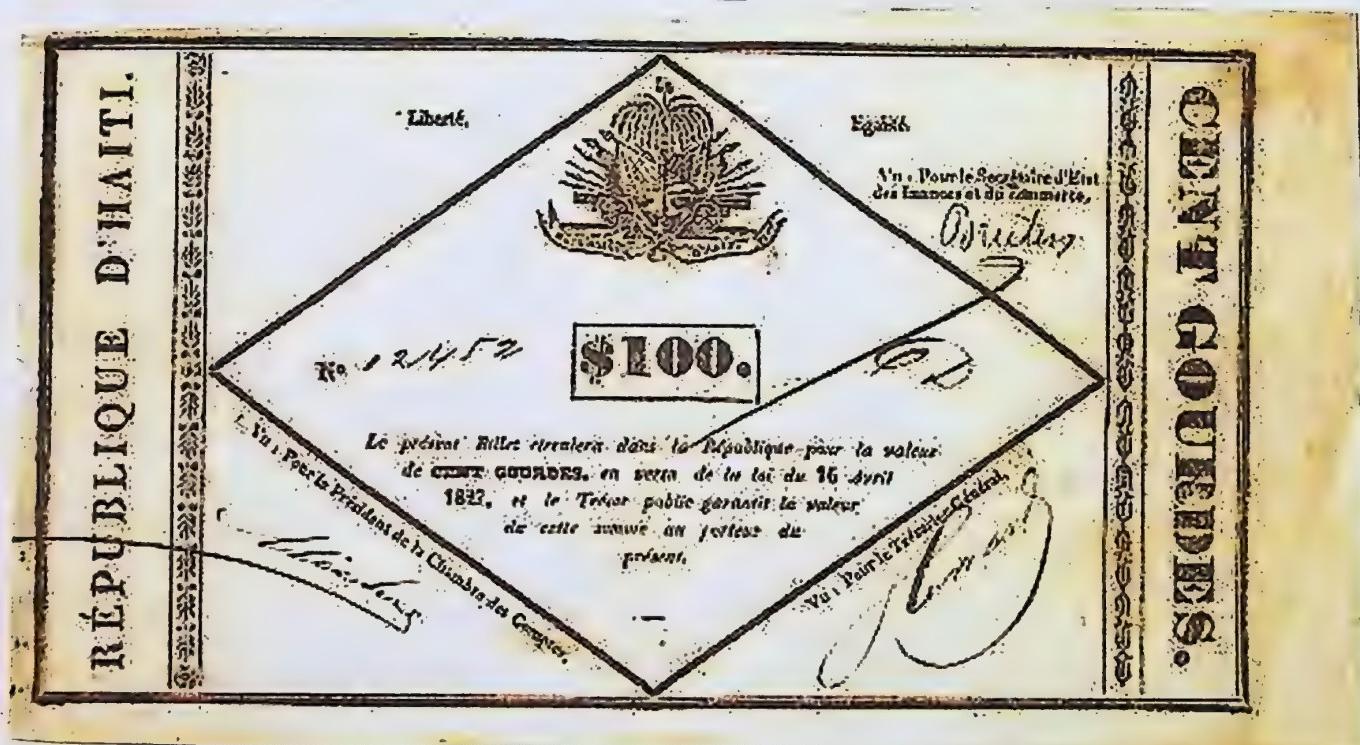


LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"First(?) Issue"

(Period 1827--1851)

Some notes printed on watermarked paper.



P-10

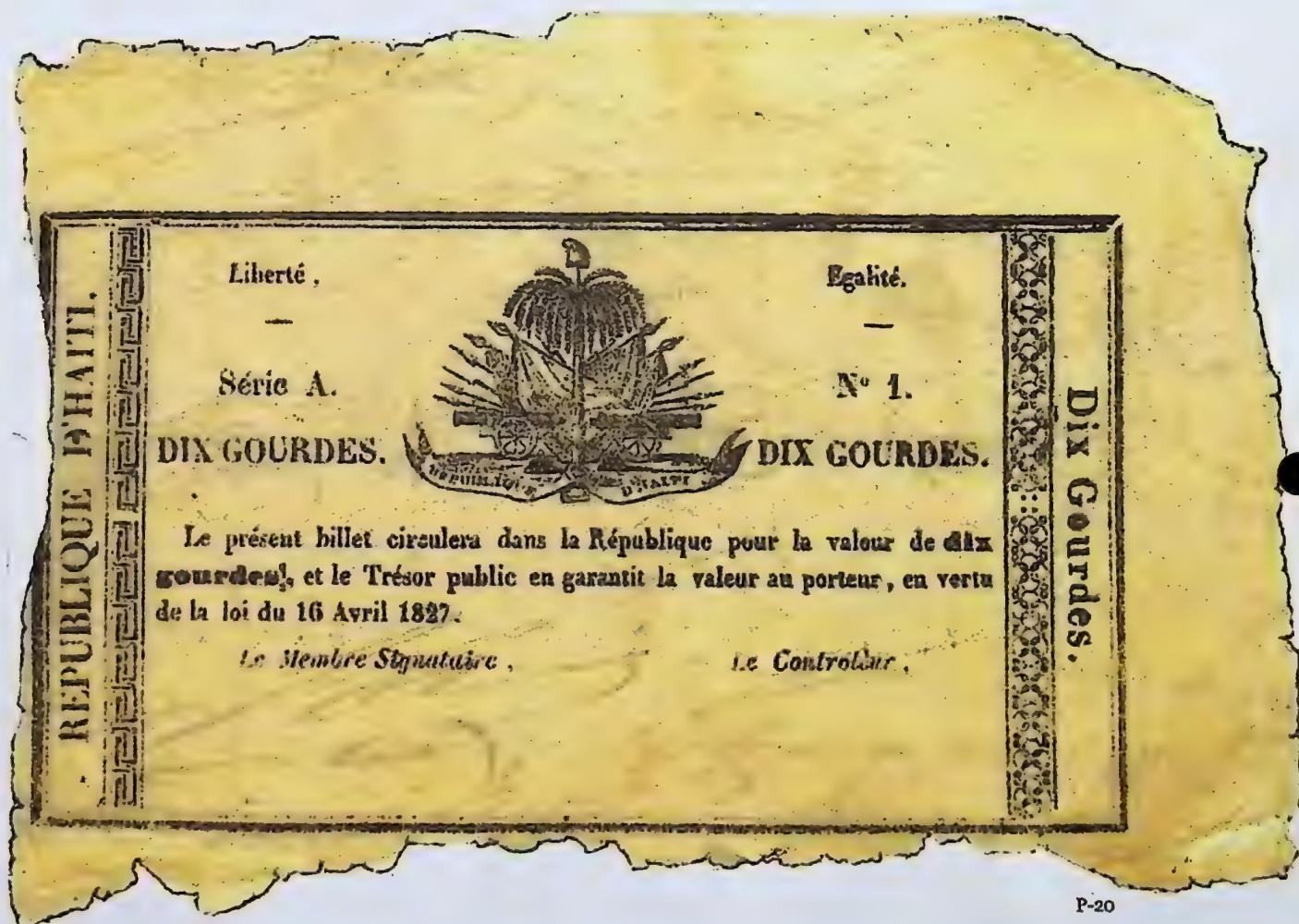


LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"Second(?) Issue" "Simple Format"

(Period 1827-1851)

All these notes are N°1. of Série A.

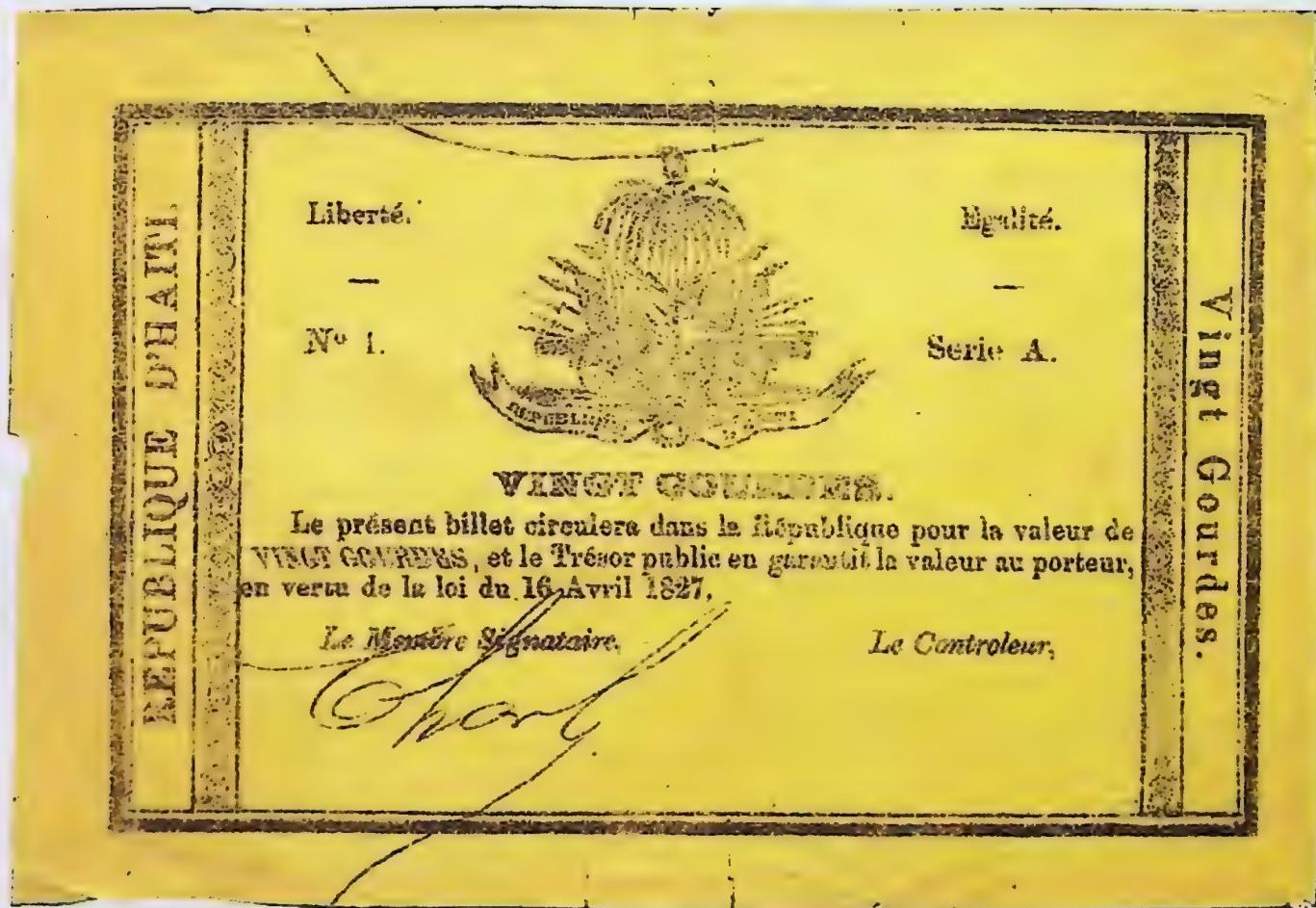


P-20

LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"Second(?) Issue" "Simple Format"

(Period 1827--1851)



P-21

LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"Third Issue" "Long Format"

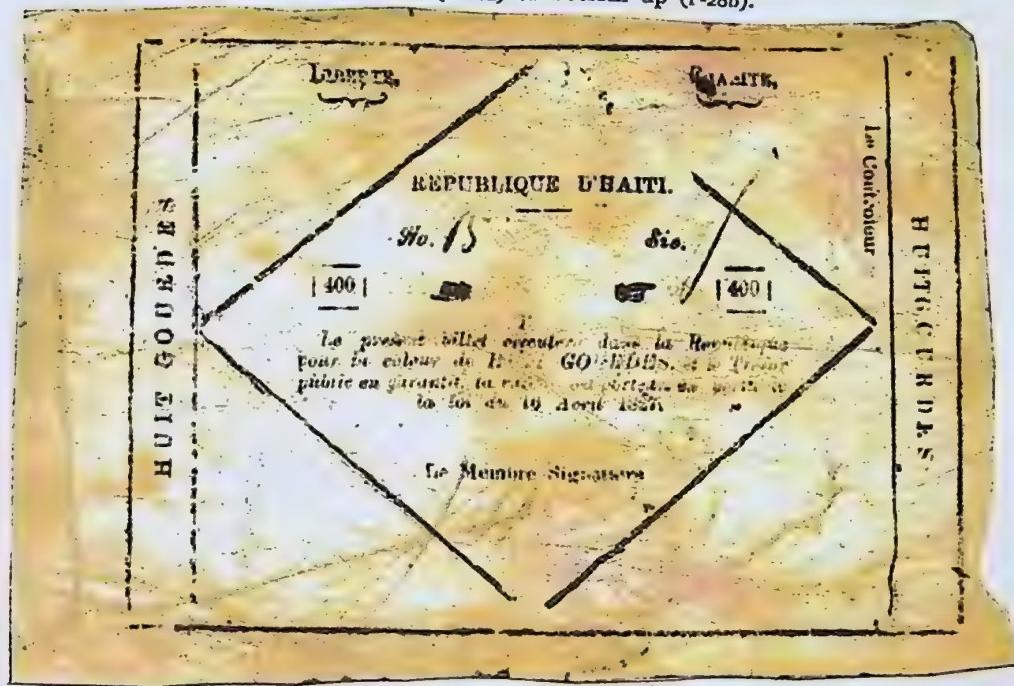
(Period 1827-1851)



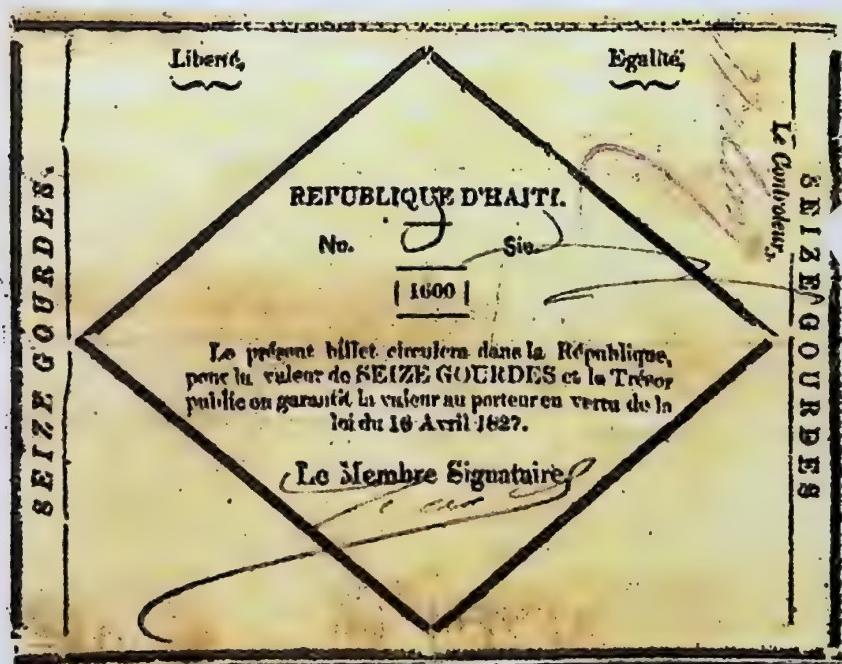
P-24

10G and 25G notes of this type have not been verified.

The vertical HUIT GOURDES at left may read
from top down (P-28a) or bottom up (P-28b).



P-28



P-30

No 4 Gourde (P-27) or 12 Gourdes (P-29) note has ever been verified.

LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

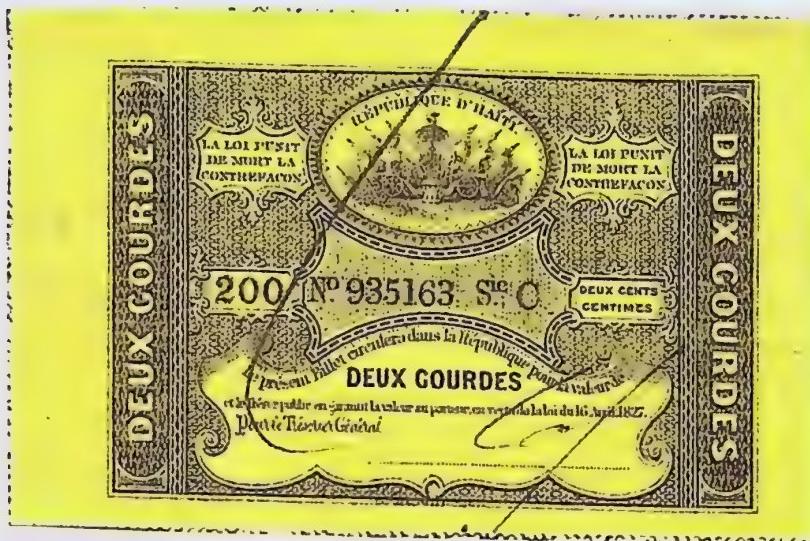
Loi du 16 Avril 1827

"Fifth Issue"

"Fancy Format without portrait"

(Probably 1850's)

These notes were printed by Charles Skipper & East Ltd., London,
on paper with perforated edges, probably in the 1850's.



P-33



P-34

LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

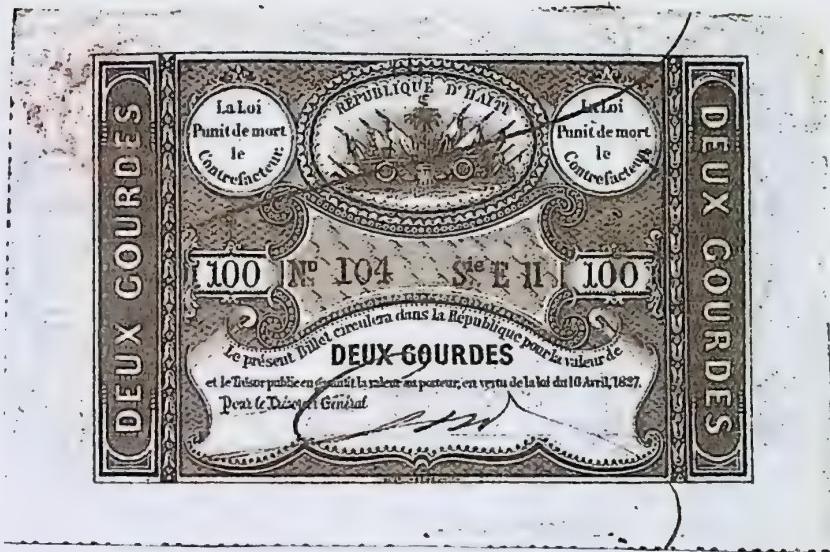
Loi du 16 Avril 1827

(Probably 1850's)

"Fifth Issue"

"Fancy Format without portrait"

This note was printed by Waterlow & Sons, London, on paper with perforated edges, probably in the 1850's.



P-39

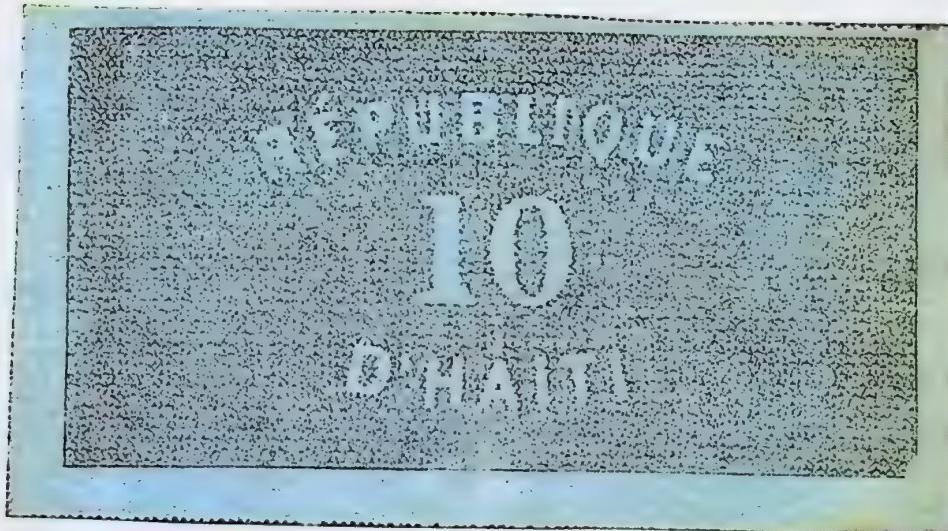


LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"Fifth Issue" "Fancy format"

(Probably 1850's)

This 10 Gourdes note is the *only* one of the
1827-dated notes to have a printed reverse.



LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"Fifth Issue" "Fancy Format"

(Probably 1850's)



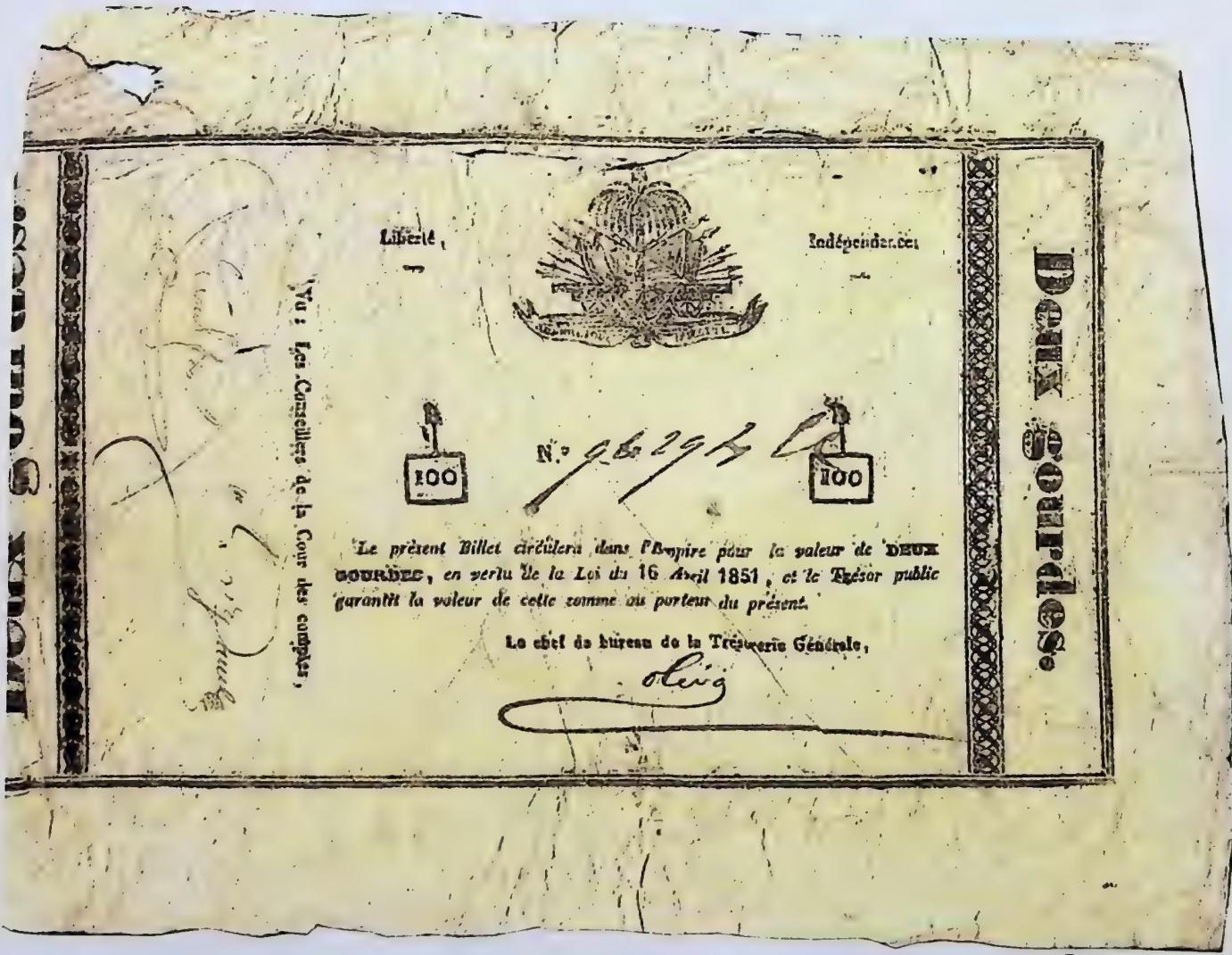
P-35



P-36

No 100 Gourdes note (P-37) has been verified.

This is apparently the only note issued by emperor Faustin I.
(No 1 Gourde note (P-14) has been verified.)



P-15

LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 16 Avril 1827
"Sixth Issue"
"Fancy format with portrait"

(Early 1860's)

Despite still bearing the 1827 date, these notes can be dated to the early 1860's because they bear a portrait of Fabre-Nicholas Geffrard, who was president of Haiti from January 1859 to March 1867.



P-41



P-42

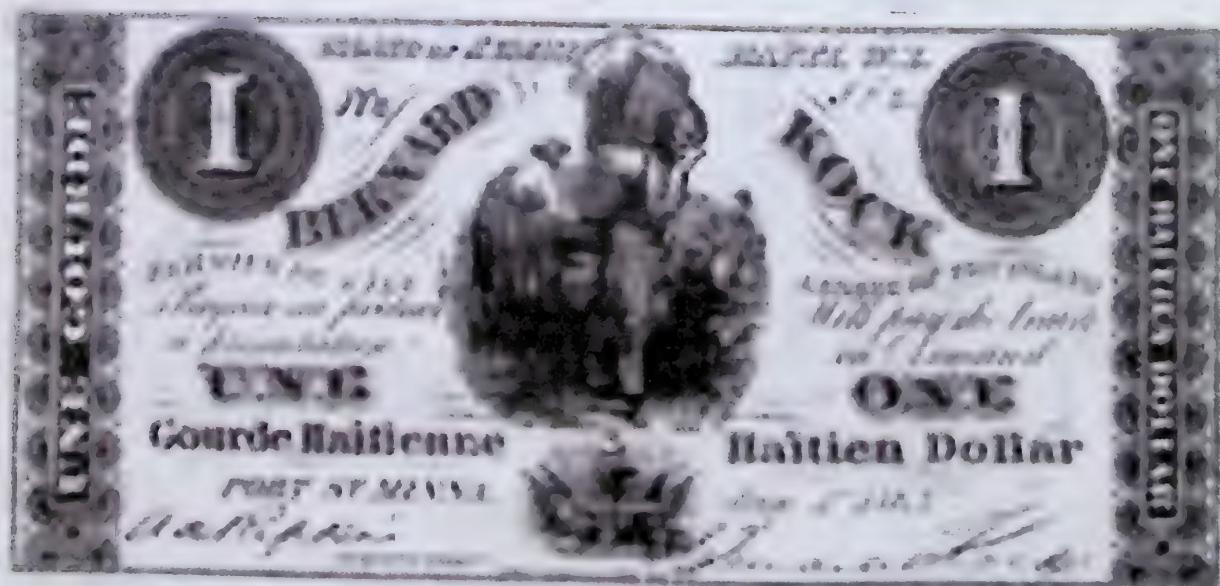
These were the last notes dated 1827.



In 1862 Bernard Kock, a New Orleans cotton broker, conceived a plan to send 5000 American Negroes newly freed from slavery to colonize *Ile à Vache*, a small island just 9 miles off the Haitian mainland, and to pay them to raise cotton there. The American president Lincoln supported the idea, and Haitian president Geffrard promised inducements to allow the Negroes to eventually become Haitian citizens and landowners. Kock arranged for financing in New York and had some notes printed up with which to pay the Negroes and which they could then spend at Kock's company store. Soon the first 500 freed Negroes left by ship for *Ile à Vache*. There Kock built a small hospital and a sawmill and had the Negroes start cutting timber for houses, schools, and churches.

But financing was always shaky. Smallpox killed 25 of the Negroes, and after a brief armed uprising the rest fell under the influence of a Voodoo-like religious excitement.. In the autumn of 1863 the American backers abandoned their interest in the project and the whole scheme immediately collapsed. Kock's notes were never issued, and in December president Lincoln sent an American ship to bring the 453 remaining Negroes back to the United States.

These notes have plain backs.





Printed by Charles Skipper & East Ltd., London.
It appears that no such notes ever circulated.



(P-UNL)

(No 1 Gourde note (P-50) has ever been verified.)



P-51

Printed on white paper (P-52a) or blue paper (P-52b).



P-52

The 25 gourdes note may be printed on blue, blue-green, blue-grey, yellow, pink, or violet paper.



P-54



P-55



P-56



P-57



P-58

Because of the severe civil commotions of late 1869 the exchange rate of the ("first") gourde fell to 4000 gourdes for one US dollar. In December the situation stabilized when president Salnave was overthrown and executed by general Nissage-Saget; the gourde then rose to 400 and finally 70 to the dollar and then back to 400 by June 1870. A *piastre forte*, "strong" or "hard piaster," was equivalent to one silver US dollar or one silver "Spanish dollar" (peso).

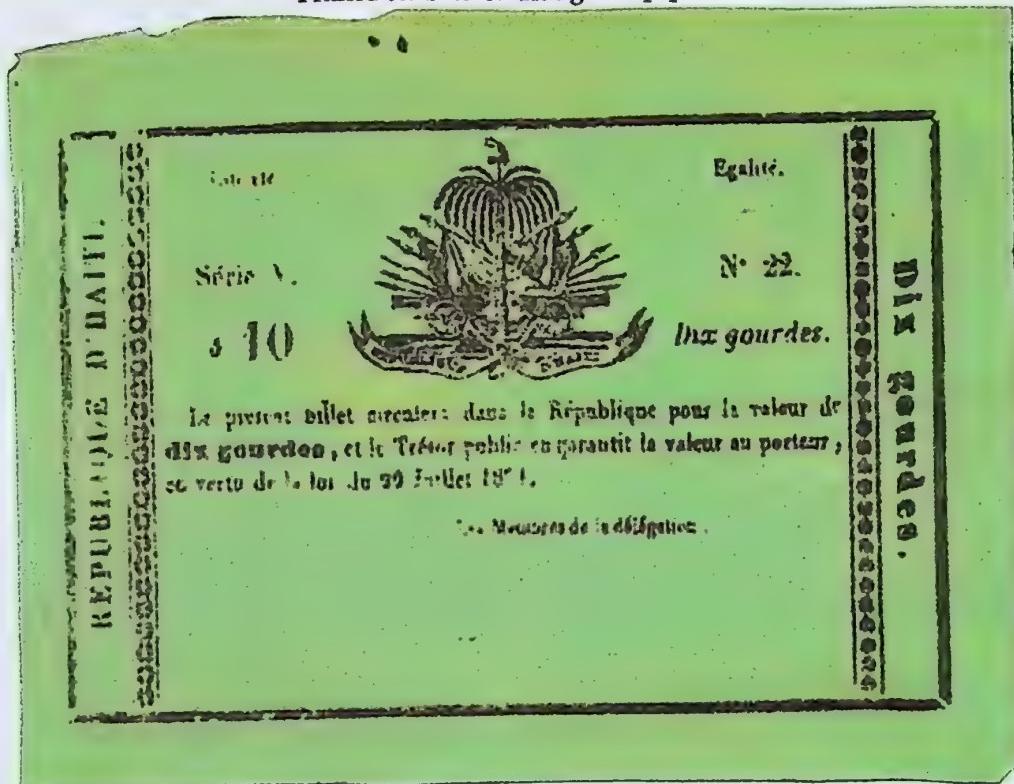


This note is extremely rare.

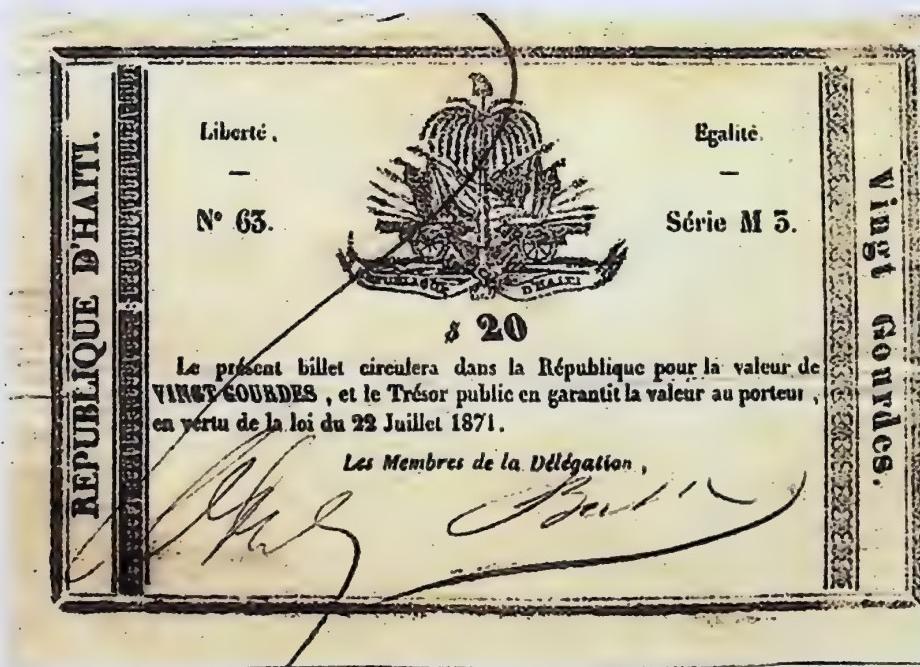
P-60

In July 1871 the "first gourde" was replaced at the rate of 10:1 by a new "second gourde."

Printed on blue or blue green paper.



P-64



P-65

Only these two denominations were issued before they were in turn replaced by the "third gourde" at the rate of 300:1 on 26 August 1872.



La Banque Nationale d'Haïti was established in late 1874, and issued its first notes in piastres, at that time again equal to gourdes. These notes were issued without signatures, but some had fraudulent signatures added later.

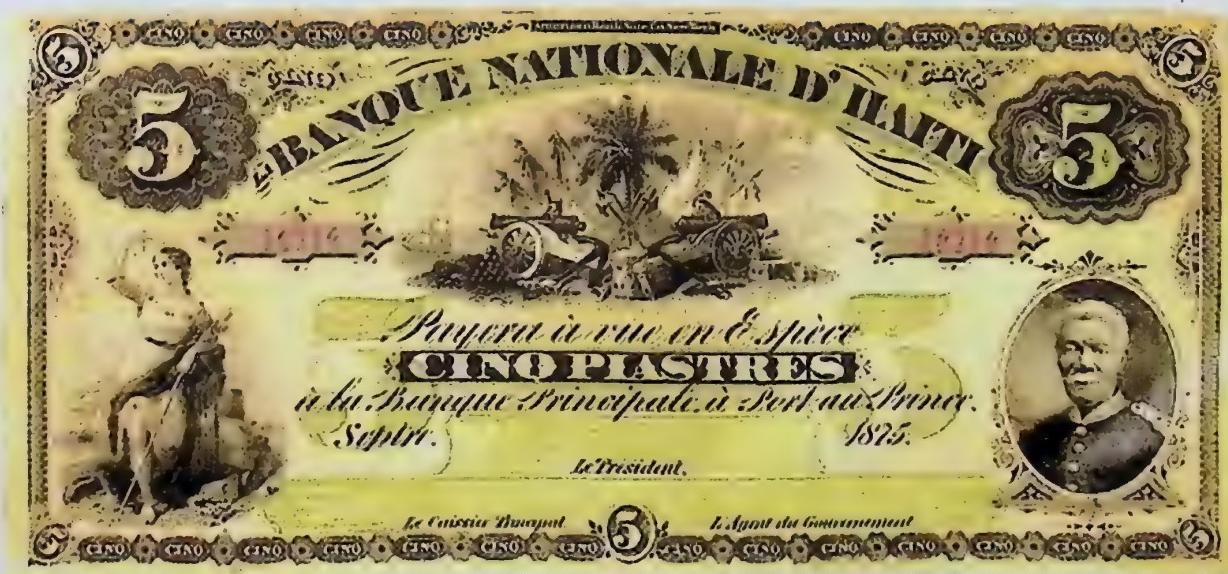


Michel Domingue

P-68



P-70



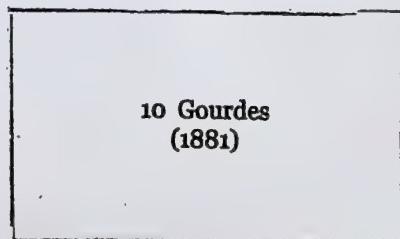
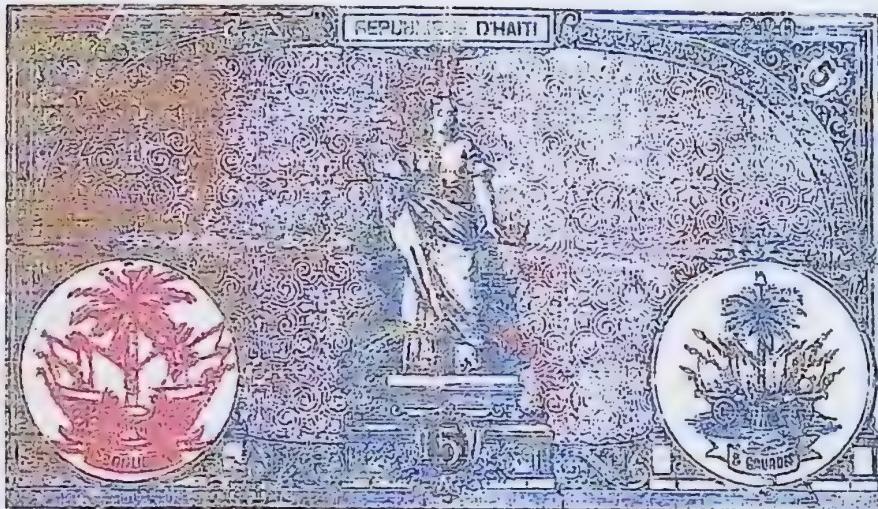
No 50 centimes note (P-69) or 2 piastres note (P-71) has ever been verified.

P-72

BANQUE NATIONALE D'HAITI

(Loi du 24 Septembre 1880)

(1881)



Lysius Salomon-Jeune spent many years as Haitian ambassador to France before he returned to Haiti in August 1879 and became president in October. He promptly revitalized *La Banque Nationale* with an infusion of 10,000,000 francs of new capital from a consortium of French bankers. The recapitalized bank began operating in 1881 and issued new currency authorized by a law of 24 September 1880, printed in France and backed by gold at the exchange rate of 5 gourdes for 1 French franc.



P-74

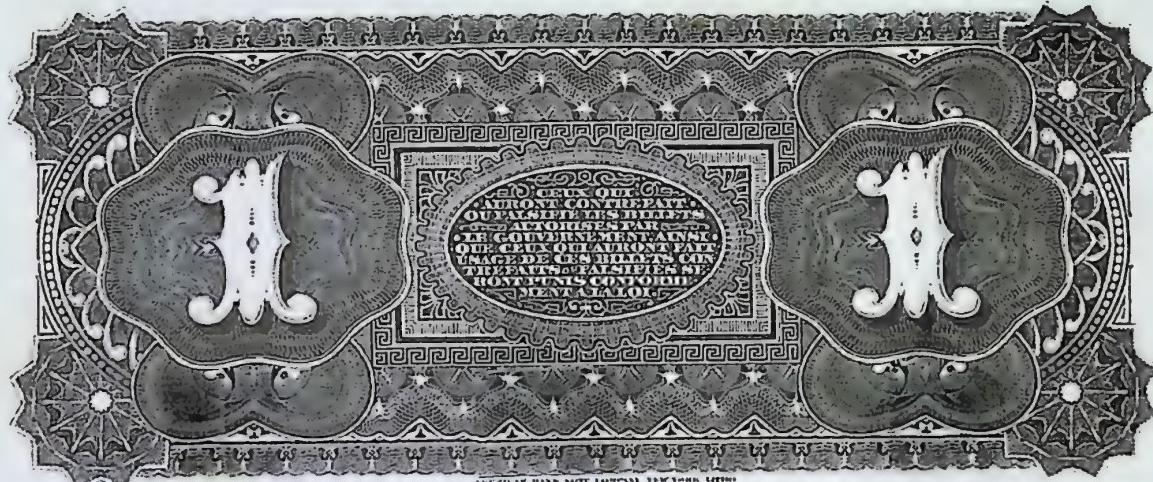


P-74A

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Ninth Issue"
Loi du 28 Août 1883

1883



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Ninth Issue"
Loi du 28 Août 1883

1883



P-75

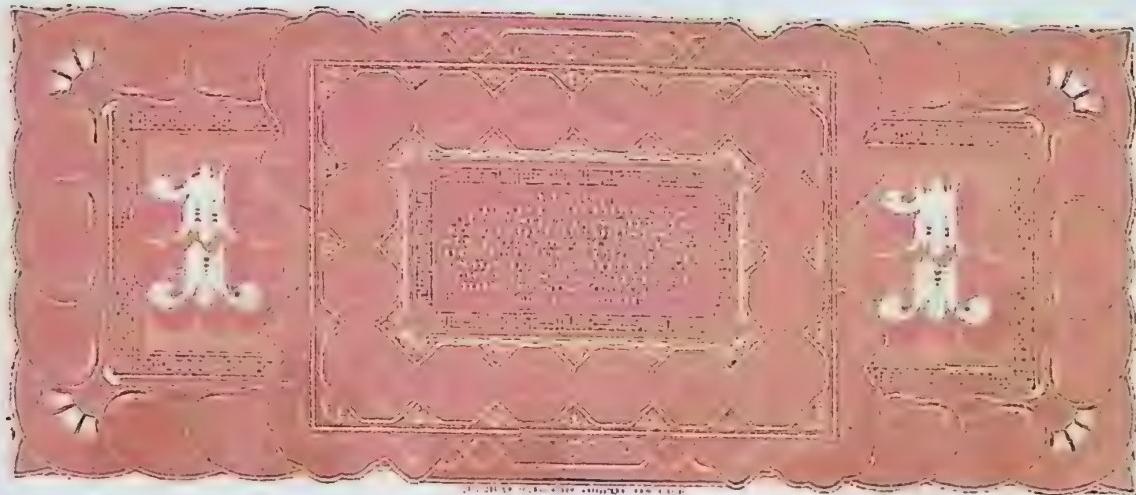


P-76

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Tenth Issue"
Loi du 6 Octobre 1884

1884



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Tenth Issue"
Loi du 6 Octobre 1884

1884



P-77



P-78

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Eleventh Issue"
Loi du 3 Novembre 1887

1887



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Eleventh Issue"
Loi du 3 Novembre 1887

1887



P-79



P-80

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Twelfth Issue"
(du Decret...du 28 Juin 1889)

1889

The 10 centimes note may be printed in black (P-83a) or blue (P-83b).



P-83



P-84



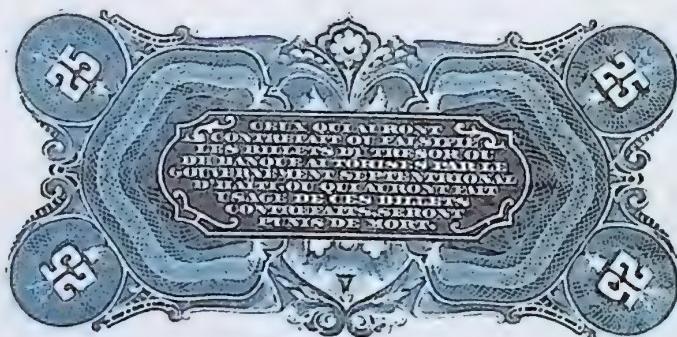
P-85

All three denominations have plain backs; all issued notes were validated by a rubberstamped red seal.



RÉPUBLIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE D'HAÏTI
(Republic of Northern Haiti)

(1888-1889)



RÉPUBLIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE D'HAÏTI
(Republic of Northern Haiti)

(1888-1889)



P-88



P-89



P-90



RÉPUBLIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE D'HAÏTI
(Republic of Northern Haiti)

(1888-1889)





P-91



P-92



RÉPUBLIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE D'HAÏTI
(Republic of Northern Haiti)

(1888-1889)





P-95

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Thirteenth issue"
Loi du 29 Septembre 1892

1892



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Thirteenth Issue"
Loi du 29 Septembre 1892

1892



P-101



P-102





Série A: red obverse and red-brown reverse. Only one note known; it is speculated that this issue was promptly suppressed because its colors too closely resembled those of the 2 Gourdes notes (see following pages).

P-134



Série B, etc: blue reverse, etc.

P-135

All these notes were issued without signatures; some had fraudulent signatures added later.



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
(Rebel government at Gonaïves)

(1902)





P-136

These reverses were used again in 1904.



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Fourteenth issue"
Loi du 11 Août 1903

1903



J.-J. Dessalines

Nord-Alexis

P-110



P-111

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Fifteenth Issue"
Loi du 27 Février 1904*

1904

These notes still use the 1903 reverses.



P-120



P-121

* The 1904 date is in the second line of text under the word RÉPUBLIQUE.

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Sixteenth Issue"
Loi du 14 Mai 1908

1908



Nord-Alexis at both left and right.

P-125

In 1909 the exchange rate was about 5.63 Haitian Gourdes for 1 US Dollar.

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Seventeenth Issue"
Loi du 22 Decembre 1914

1914



Only a few of these 1914-dated were released into circulation as printed; most of them were overprinted in red for the new *Banque Nationale de la République d'Haïti* in 1916 (1G notes only) and 1919 (1G and 2G notes).



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

BON DU TRÉSOR
("Treasury Note")
l'Arrête du 22 Janvier 1915

1915



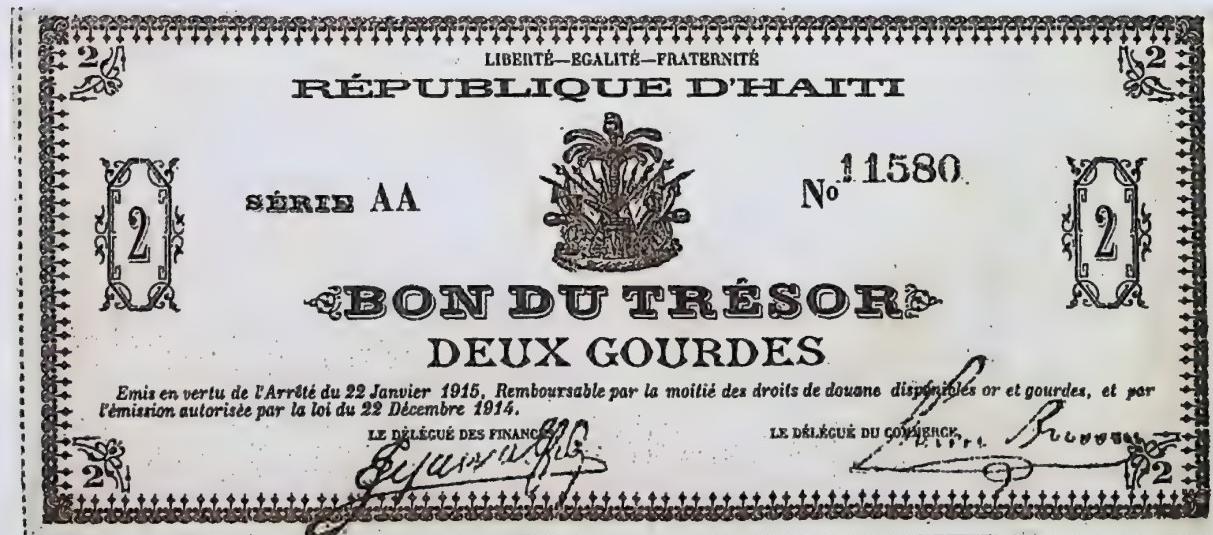
RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

BON DU TRÉSOR
("Treasury Note")
l'Arrête du 22 Janvier 1915

1915



P-127



P-128

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

BON DU TRÉSOR
("Treasury Note")
l'Arrête du 22 Janvier 1915

1915



RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

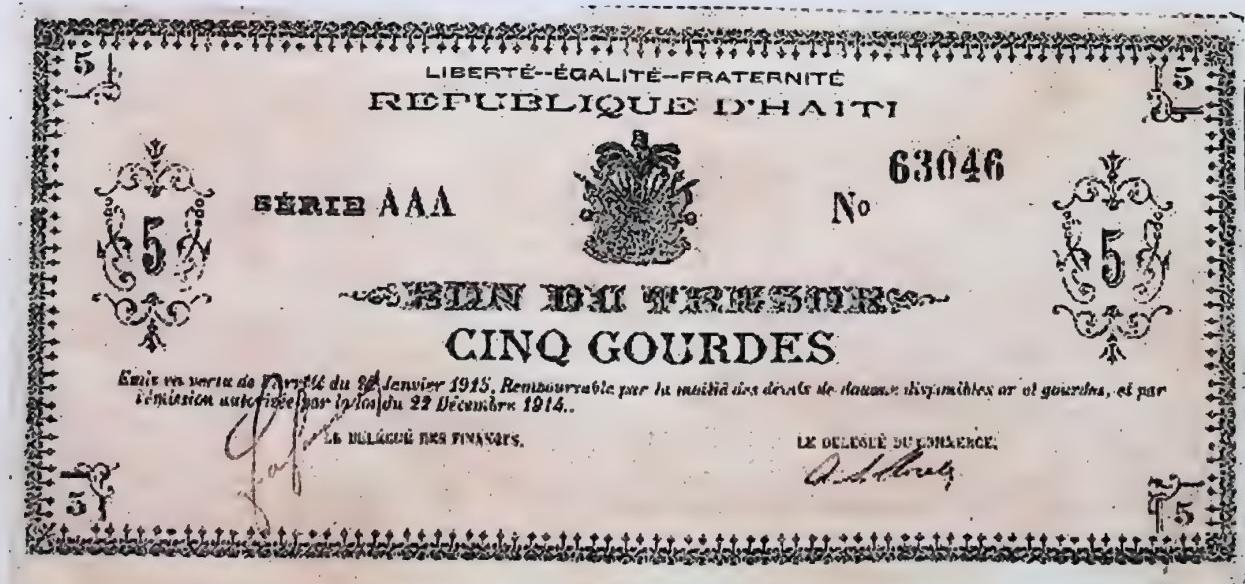
BON DU TRÉSOR
("Treasury Note")
l'Arrête du 22 Janvier 1915

1915

Printed first with red serial numbers, then with black serial numbers.



P-128a



P-128b

When the US Marines intervened in Haiti in July 1915 the exchange rate was about 10 Gourdes to the US Dollar.

When the US Marines took control of Haiti in July 1915 the principal American investor in Haiti was the National City Bank of New York. The National City Bank, already owner of a minor interest in *La Banque Nationale de la République d'Haiti*,* promptly seized all the shares of *La Banque Nationale* and thus took over total control. But the 5-year old *Banque Nationale* had not yet issued any banknotes, so the National City Bank found some unissued 1914 notes of *La République d'Haiti* and had them overprinted for use as provisional *Banque Nationale* notes in 1916 and again in 1919. The overprinted 1916 or 1919 date is just below the word LIBERTE at the top center.



P-137

An uncut sheet of 2 Gourdes notes is known with the 1916-dated overprint, but they are Specimens; no circulated note is known.

* German interests also owned a significant share of *La Banque Nationale* and the small German community in Haiti controlled much of the nation's commerce. Both Germany and America had tried unsuccessfully to get a long-term lease to establish a naval base at the western tip of Haiti.

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAITI

Avril 1919 overprint on
République d'Haiti notes

1919

In 1919 La Banque Nationale overprinted 1914 1 and 2 Gourdes notes.



P-140



P-141

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"First Issue"
Convention du 2 Mai 1919

1919



These notes are nicknamed "the banana plant notes." The earlier notes bear the signature of R. L. Farnham, a vice president of The National City Bank of New York; later notes bear the signature of C. E. "Sunshine Charley" Mitchell, who became president of The National City Bank in 1921.



P-150



P-151



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"First Issue"
Convention du 2 Mai 1919

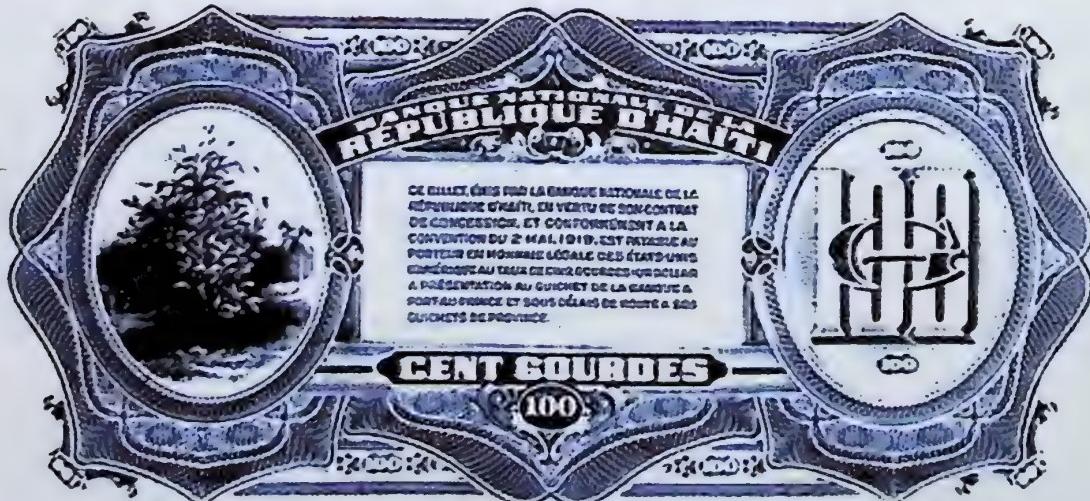
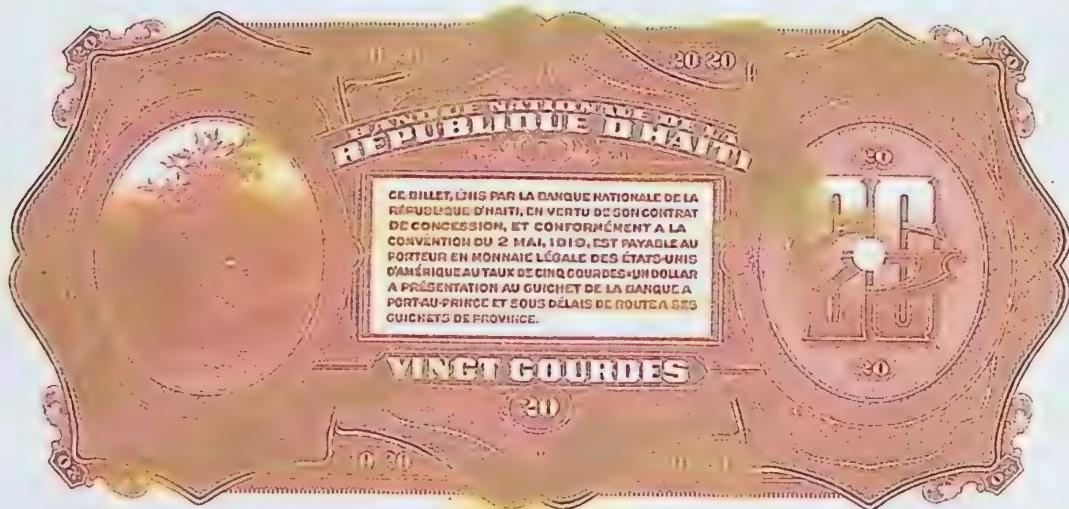
1919



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"First Issue"
Convention du 2 Mai 1919

1919



The American Bank Note Company's page of their proof specifies
that "order never placed for this;" thus only proofs are known.



There exists a black-and-white "photographic proof" of a 100 Gourdes note.



These reverses printed by the American Bank Note Company were used *La Banque Nationale's* "2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th," and "10th Issue," from 1925 through 1979.



On these "Second Issue" notes the third signature is "POUR CONTRÔLE...;" these were issued from 1925 through 1932 with several combinations of signatures. Earlier notes still bear the signature of Charles E. Mitchell of the National City Bank of New York and some later issues have the signature of W. H. "Bank Williams," also an officer of the National City Bank.



Distant view of Citadelle Laferrière

P-160



P-161



P-162



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Second Issue"

(1925-1932)



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Second Issue"

(1925-1932)



P-163

The 20 Gourdes denomination was discontinued after only a few years.



P-164

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Second Issue"

(1925-1932)



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Second Issue"

(1925-1932)



P-165



P-166

No higher denominations were printed until the "Tenth issue" about 1970.

These notes still use the 1925 "second issue" reverses.
The portrait is of president Sténio Vincent.



P-167



P-168

Now the first and third signatures are both of UN ADMINISTRATEUR.
These notes still use the 1925 "Second Issue" reverses.



P-170



Black signatures.

P-171



Blue signatures.

P-172



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Fourth Issue"

(1940-1946)



Orange signatures.

P-172A



Black signatures.

P-172B

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Fourth Issue"

(1940-1946)



P-173

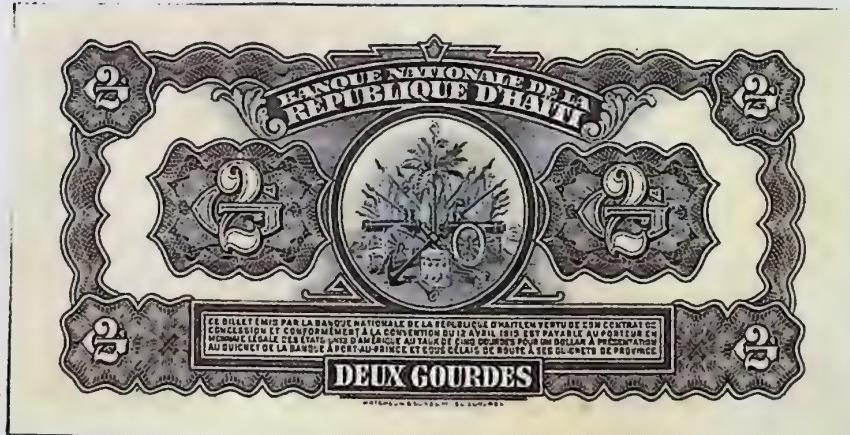
31 Mars 1947

1947

This was a receipt for a forced loan by
the citizenry to the government.



These Waterlow & Sons reverses are similar to the 1925
"Second Issue" American Bank Note Company" reverses.



Printed by Waterlow & Sons Limited, London.



Close-up view of Citadelle Laferrière

P-174



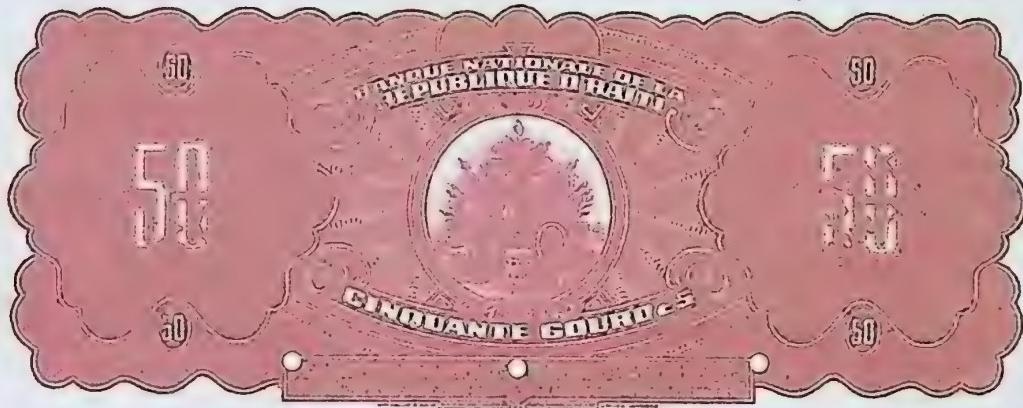
P-175



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Fifth Issue"

(1946-1954)



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Fifth Issue"

(1946-1954)

Waterlow 50 gourde and 100 gourde notes are known only as archival specimens; apparently no notes were printed.

SPECIMEN NOTE WATERLOW & SONS LTD.



P-176S

SPECIMEN NOTE WATERLOW & SONS LTD.



P-177S

Resumption of American Bank Note Company printing, now using the close-up view of Citadelle Laferrière. The reverses are still the 1925 "second issue" reverses.



P-178



P-179



P-180



P-182

No 50 gourde notes were printed for circulation.



P-183S



P-184

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

CERTIFICAT DE LIBÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE

(1962-1967)

Loi du 17 Septembre 1962
Émission de 1er Octobre 1962

INTERETS

du	au	du	au
du	au	du	au
du	au	du	au
du	au	du	au
du	au	du	au

INTERETS

du	au	du
du	au	du
du	au	du
du	au	du
du	au	du



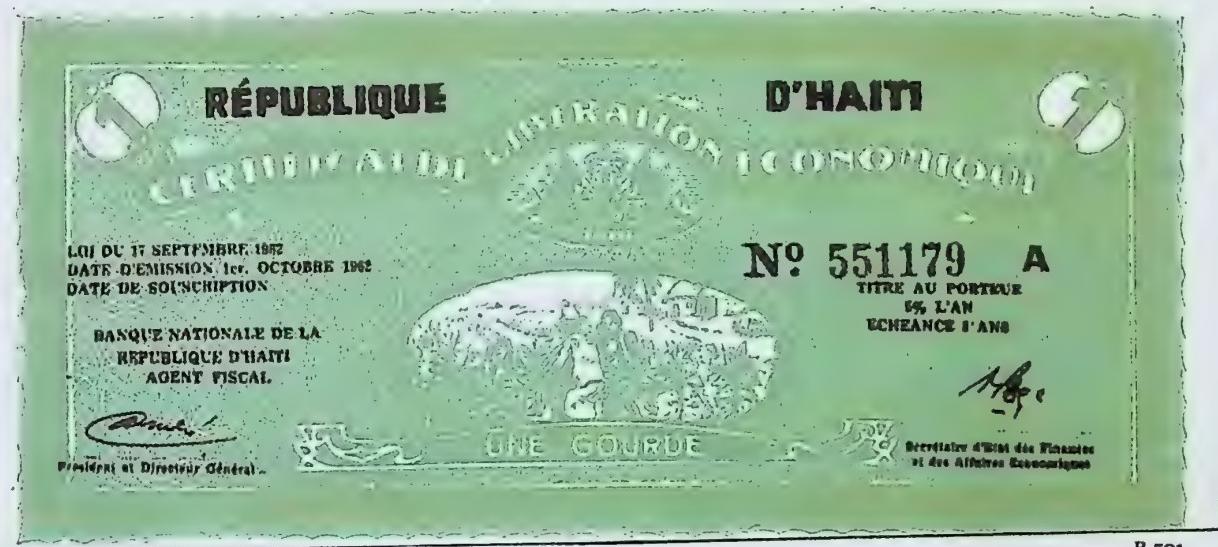
RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

CERTIFICAT DE LIBÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE

(1962--1967)

Loi du 17 Septembre 1962
Émission du 1er Octobre 1962

Like the 1947 *Libération Financière* certificates (see page 87), these were another forced loan to the government. Each worker received part of his pay in the form of these certificates, which were supposed to draw periodic interest at the rate of 5% per year but which could not be redeemed for face value until after five years. But almost nobody bothered with trying to collect the quarterly interest payments.



P-501



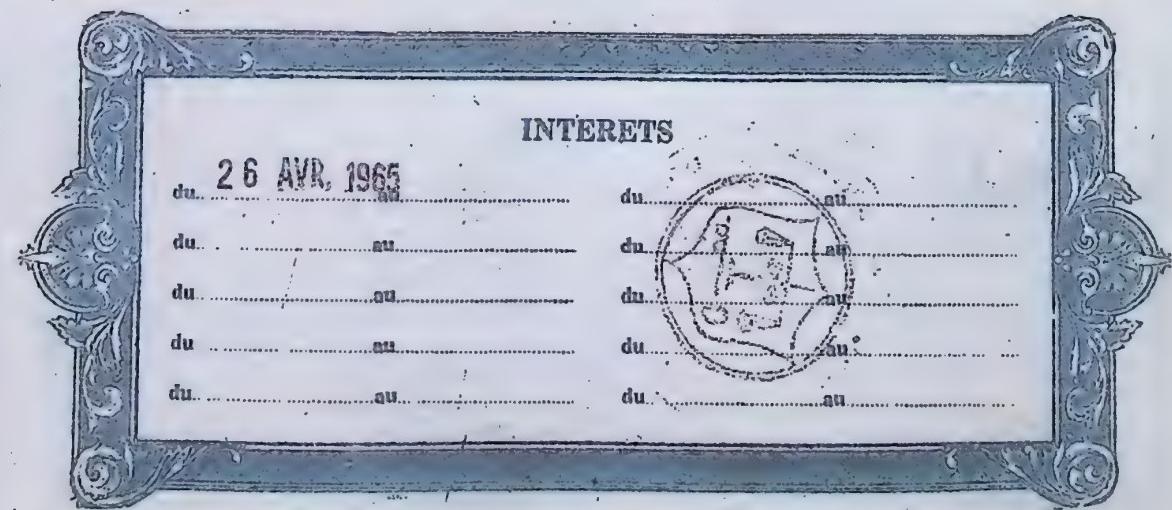
P-502

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

CERTIFICAT DE LIBÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE

(1962-1967)

Loi du 17 Septembre 1962
Emission de 1er Octobre 1962



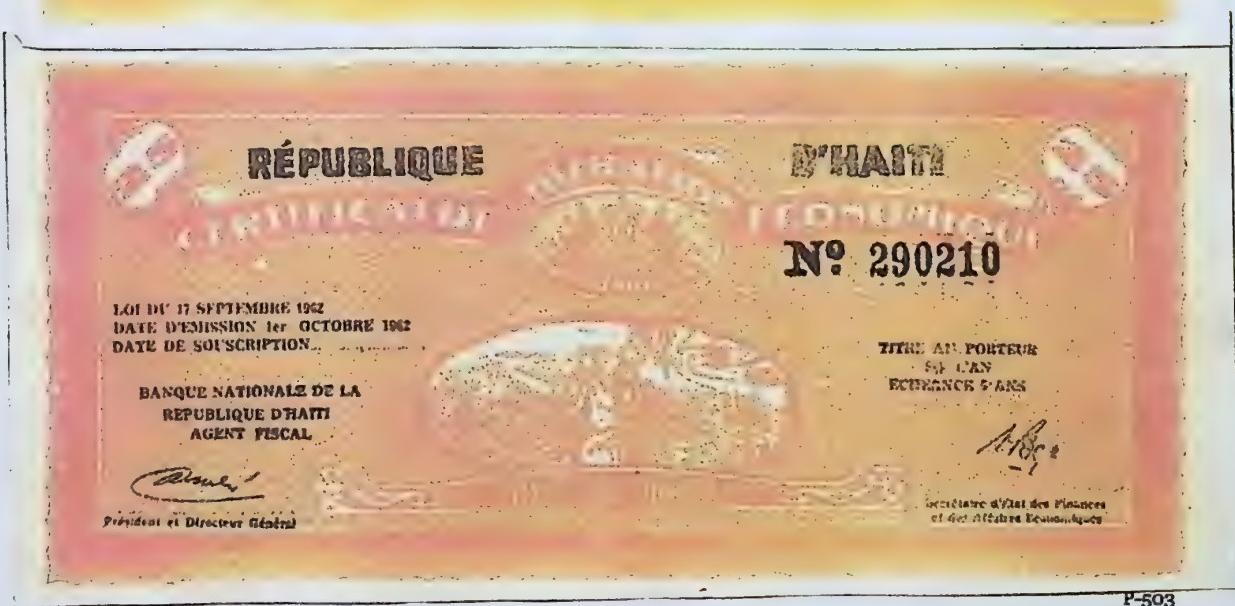
RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

CERTIFICAT DE LIBÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE

Loi du 17 Septembre 1962
Emission de 1er Octobre 1962

(1962-1967)

The 25 gourde notes were printed in yellow and then in orange.



These notes are still printed by the American Bank Note Company,
but all the obverse guilloches have been modified.



P-185



P-186

It is said that the entire shipment of these 5 gourde notes was stolen; nevertheless uncirculated notes have turned up frequently in the numismatic marketplace.



BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Seventh issue"

(1965-1970)

50 gourde notes are known only as Specimens.



P-188S

It was long believed that no 100 gourde notes of this type had been printed for circulation, but at least three circulated notes are known.



P-189

These De La Rue reverses are very similar to the 1925 American Bank Note Company reverses.



Printed by Thomas De La Rue & Company, London, with obverse designs similar to the previous American Bank Note Company printings.



P-190



P-191



P-192





BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Eighth Issue"

(1967)



P-193



P-194



P-195

Still De La Rue printings but now with portrait of Dr. Francois ("Papa Doc") Duvalier on the 1, 2, and 5 gourde notes.



P-196



P-197

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA REPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Ninth Issue"

(1968--1970)



P-198

Resumption of American Bank Note Company printings, now with the portrait of Dr. Duvalier facing right on the 1 and 2 gourde notes, and now on the 10 gourde note also; also now with portraits on the 50 and 100 gourde notes.



P-200



P-201



P-202



"Papa Doc" Duvalier

P-203



Salomon Jeunc

P-204



Henri-Christophe

P-205

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Tenth Issue"

(1970-1979)



These were Haiti's first 250 and 500 gourde notes
(equivalent to 50 and 100 US dollars).



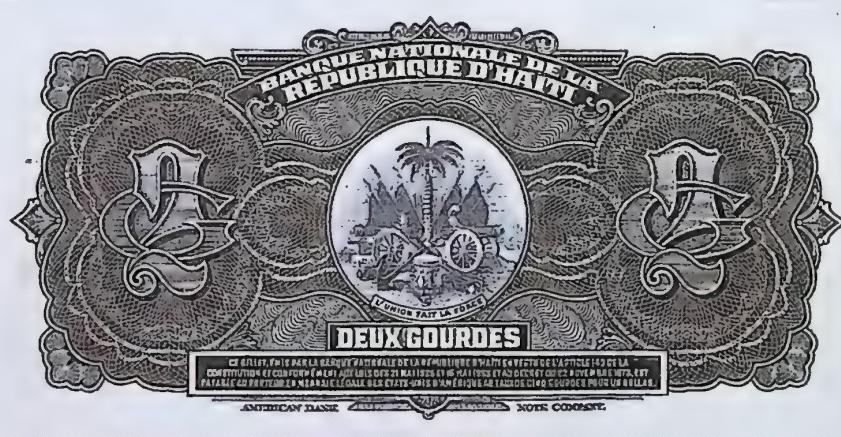
J.-J. Dessalines P-206



"Papa Doc" Duvalier

P-207

The reverses are like the previous 1925 reverses except that the text is now three lines instead of four and now mentions the *décret du 22 novembre 1973*.



The obverse text has been changed to read "Ce billet émis conformément à la constitution de la République...," etc.



P-211



P-212



P-213

BANQUE NATIONALE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Eleventh Issue"
Au décret du 22 Novembre 1973

(1979)





P-213

The 100 gourde notes first had "smaller" 3½ mm. serial numbers, then later "larger" 4½ mm. serial numbers.



P-214A



P-214B



The National Palace

This was *La Banque Nationale's* first (and last) 25 gourde note (equal to 5 US dollars) and bears a portrait of president-for-life Jean-Claude ("Baby Doc") Duvalier.



P-218

This was the last note to bear the word *Nationale* in the issuing bank's title.

The reverses are like the previous except the word
Nationale has been dropped from the bank's title.



The issuing bank has dropped *Nationale* from its title. These earliest notes (with signatures of Martineau, Berret, and Lafontant) were printed on *paper* and thus bear the usual embedded color planchets. Notes with serial prefix Z are replacement notes.



P-230a



P-231a



P-232



BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 17 Août 1979
"First Issue"
Printed on paper

(1979)



No 10 gourde notes of this type were printed at all.



P-235a



P-236a

No 250 or 500 gourde notes of this type were printed on paper,
but they were printed on Tyvek (see next pages).

"First issue"

Printed on Tyvek

In the late 1970's the American Bank Note Company tried printed banknotes on Tyvek®, a synthetic high-density fiber which, it was thought, would be more durable than paper. So 50 gourde obverse and reverse plates were made up, still bearing the current Banque Nationale...etc. title and the right signatory UN ADMINISTRATEUR but with a new obverse underprinting featuring 16 mm. circlets, and proofs were printed on watermarked Tyvek. (Tyvek notes do not have the embedded color planchets found on paper notes.)



P-UNL

But La Banque had dropped the word *Nationale* from its title by the time production of notes for circulation finally began. The earliest Tyvek notes issued were the 50 gourde notes bearing the signatures of Martineau, Basset, and Lafontaine (LE DIRECTEUR); these have the same underprinted circlets and watermark of an "American eagle" as the proof.



P-235b

The later 50 gourde notes on Tyvek do not have underprinted circlets or watermark.



P-235c

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Loi du 17 Aout 1979

"First issue"

Printed on Tyvek

(1982-1983)

All the later Tyvek notes have the signatures of André, Nolte, and Sanon.



P-230b



P-231b

No 5 gourde notes were printed on Tyvek (only on paper),
and no 10 gourdes notes of this issue were printed at all.



P-236b

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"First Issue"
Printed on Tyvek

(1982-1983)



(No 250 or 500 gourde notes had been printed on paper; all were on Tyvek.)



P-237

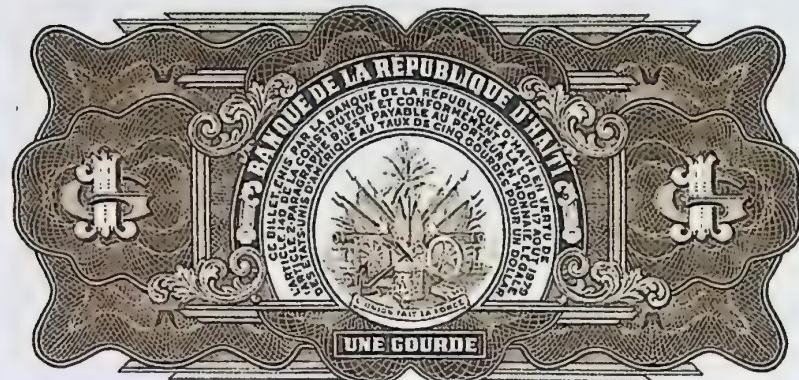


P-238

It turned out that printer's ink did not bind well to the Tyvek fibers and soon became smudged and that the fibers quickly became fragile in the tropical climate. So these notes were soon withdrawn from circulation and the use of Tyvek for paper money was discontinued.*

* The only other country which actually circulated Tyvek notes (for a brief time) was Costa Rica. N.B. that the polyethylene Tyvek is *not* the same as the more durable "polymer" now coming into use by many countries.

These De La Rue reverses are similar to the previous American Bank Note Company reverses.



Printed by Thomas De La Rue and Company Limited, London.
Notes with serial prefix ZZ are replacement notes.



P-239



P-240





5 and 25 gourde notes printed by Giesecke & Devrient, München (Munich);
10 gourdes note printed by American Bank Note Company.



"Baby Doc" Duvalier.

P-241



P-242



P-243

These overprints were probably applied by anti-Duvalier exiles in the United States, although such notes have been found in Haiti. "It was reported that 100 paper 1 notes and 250 Tyvek 2 gourde notes were overprinted."

"Papa Doc" Duvalier had died back in April 1971, almost fifteen years before these notes were overprinted. His son and successor, "Baby Doc" Duvalier, was finally forced to flee into exile on 7 Février (February) 1986, which is the (hard-to-see) date on the overprint. (One could wonder why the dissidents who desecrated the portraits of Papa Doc, whom they secretly called "Kaka Doc," did not also overprint the then-current 10 and 25 gourde notes bearing the portrait of Baby Doc.)



P-239



P-231b

Each printer's logo now appears on the reverse of the note.



After the flight of Baby Doc Duvalier, all denominations of banknotes were either modified or completely redesigned and three different banknote printers were used. The American Bank Note Company of New York printed the 50 and 250 gourde notes of Séries (sic) 1986 and the 10 and 500 gourde notes of Séries 1988. Thomas de la Rue and Company Limited of London printed the 100 gourde note of Année 1986 and the 2 gourde note without date. Giesecke & Devrient (of) München (Munich) printed the 5 gourde note of Année 1987.



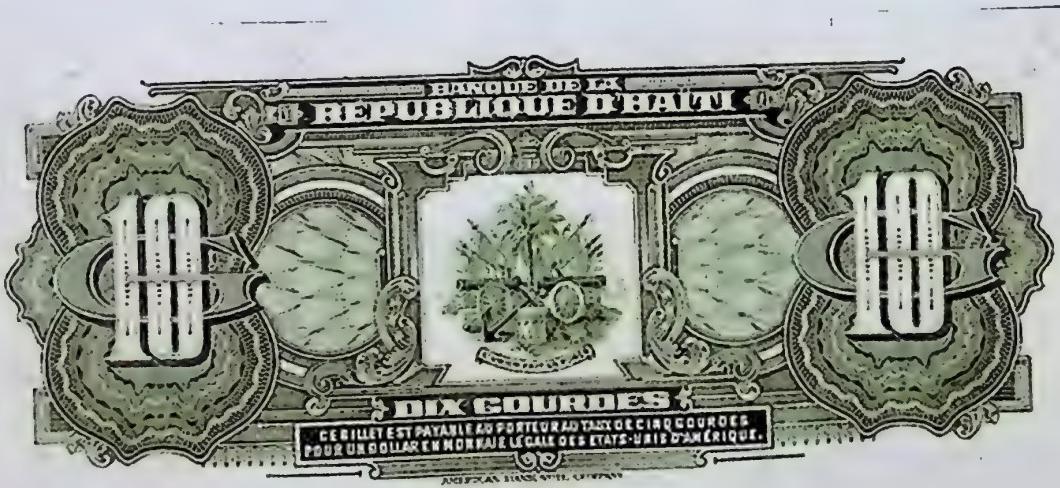
Toussaint L'Ouverture
(with long hair and ribbon)

P-245



P-246





This undated Giesecke & Devrient proof note with a portrait of Toussaint L'Ouverture is said to be from about 1986. No notes of this type were ever printed.



(P-UNL)



P-246



P-247



National Palace,
Port-au-Prince

P-248



P-249



P-250







In 1989 the Haitian gourde was delinked from the US dollar and the exchange rate allowed to float, so the new notes now bear no reference to the old 5:1 exchange rate. New 1 and 2 gourdes were printed by the United States Banknote Company and notes 5 gourdes and higher by Giesecke & Devrient.



Toussaint L'Ouverture,
Short hair without ribbon

P-253



Citadelle Laferrière

P-254



Le combat de Vertières
(06 November 1802)

P-255







P-256



Salomon Jeune

P-257



Henri-Christophe

P-258



These 1, 2, and 5 gourdes notes were printed by Thomas De La Rue and Company and were the last issue of these low denominations. Notes with serial prefix ZZ are replacements.



Toussaint L'Ouverture,
once again with long hair with ribbon

P-259



P-260



P-261





The higher denominations with new designs were printed by Giesecke & Devrient.



Palais de Justice,
Port-au-Prince

P-262



J.-J. Dessalines

P-263



Alexandre Pétion

P-264



These are all new designs incorporating a metal security strip in the paper.
 The 10, 50, and 250 gourdes notes were printed by (Thomas) De La Rue
 and the 25, 100, and 500 gourdes notes by Giesecke & Devrient.



P-265



P-266



P-267





BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

"Sixth Issue"
Année 2000

(2000--2004)



P-268



P-269

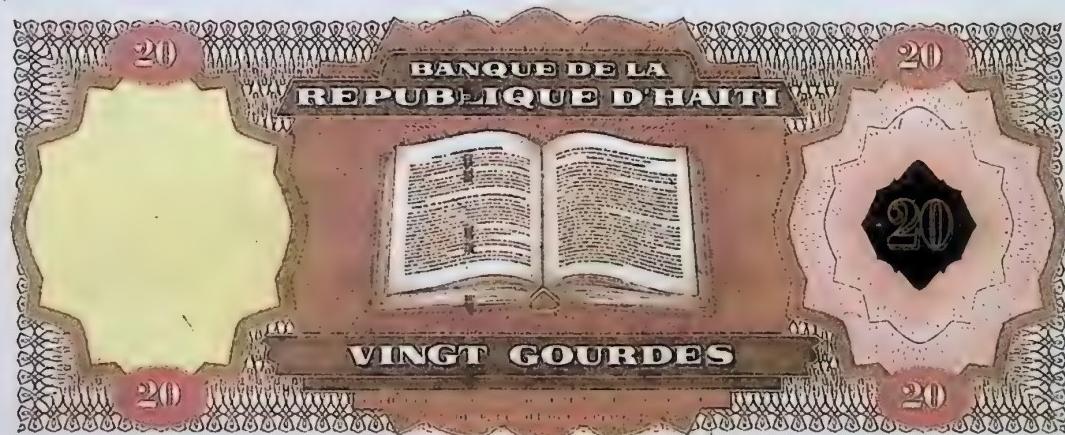
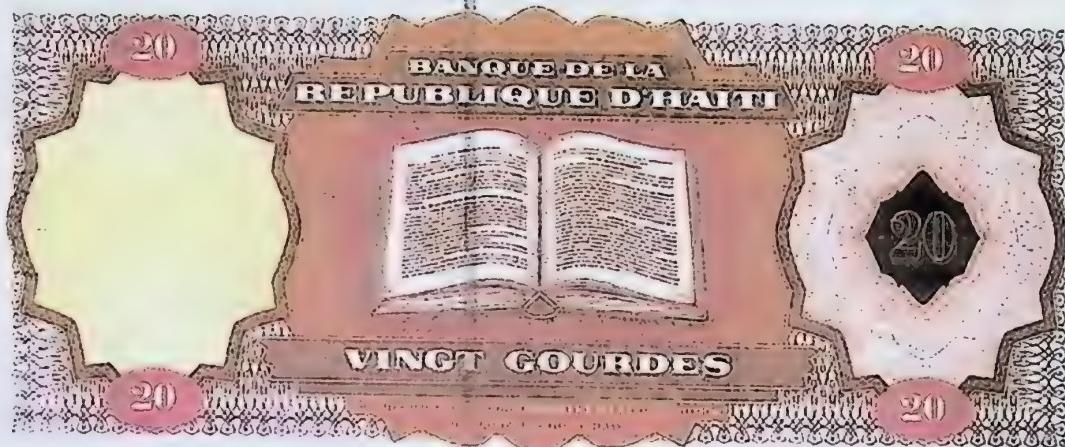


P-270

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Commemorative Issue
Année 2001

2001



This note was printed in two varieties, one with a gold-foil security strip, red serial numbers with serial prefix TL (honoring Toussaint L'Ouverture), and a text (at right) specifying that it commemorates the bicentennial of Haiti's first constitution in 1801. This commemorative note, which is "not legal tender," was sold (along with a "regular" note, below) in 500,000 "Collectors Souvenir" booklets.



Toussaint L'Ouverture

P-271

The "regular" note has the usual discontinuous metal security strip and black serial numbers, and is legal tender.

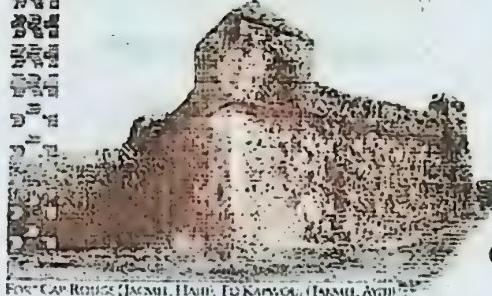


P-271

These notes were originally issued with two 6-digit serials at the top. Beginning in 2014 they were issued still with the 2001 date but with one 9-digit serial at the upper left (see page 160).

10
GOURDES GOUDE

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI



GOURDES
GOUDE

10

Fort Cap Rouge

25
GOURDES GOUDE

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI



GOURDES
GOUDE

25

Fortress des Platons

50
GOURDES GOUDE

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI



GOURDES
GOUDE

50

Fort Jalousière

This series of notes commemorates the bicentenary of Haiti's 1804 independence. These are the first notes printed in both French and Crèole (Kreyòl), and are being issued with new Année dates each year.



Sanité Bélair

P-272



Nicholas Geffrard

P-273



François Capois (Coppoix)

P-274

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI

"Bicentenary Issue"

(Année 2004--)

100
GOURDES
GOUD

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI



CE BILLET EST DÉDIÉ CONCÉPTEMENT
À LA CONSTITUTION DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
EN 1804 ET À SON 200ÈME ANNIVERSAIRE EN 2004.
GOURDES
GOUD

Citadelle Henry

250
GOURDES
GOUD

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI



CE BILLET EST DÉDIÉ CONCÉPTEMENT
À LA CONSTITUTION DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
EN 1804 ET À SON 200ÈME ANNIVERSAIRE EN 2004.
GOURDES
GOUD

Fort Décidé

500
GOURDES
GOUD

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI



CE BILLET EST DÉDIÉ CONCÉPTEMENT
À LA CONSTITUTION DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI
EN 1804 ET À SON 200ÈME ANNIVERSAIRE EN 2004.
GOURDES
GOUD

Fort Jacques

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI • BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI

C
8
3
3
6
6
2
4
9
6



C8362496

Henri-Christophe

P-275

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI • BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI

A
3
9
6
6
8
8
5
1



A3968651

J.J. Dessalines

P-276

BANQUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI • BANK REPUBLIK DAYITI

A
0
7
5
8
1
9
2



A0758192

Alexandre Pétion

P-277

All issues have a tiny 1999 vertically near top center of the reverse.



Marché Vallière ("The Iron Market"),
with "tap-taps" in background

The very first \$1000 notes, of serial block AA, were issued in 2002 but do not bear an *Année* date.



Florville Hyppolite

Notes of blocks AB and later, also first issued in 2004, do have an *Année* date in the lower right corner.





These De La Rue notes are similar to the Giesecke & Devrient "seventh issue" notes (P-266) but have different titles for the three signatories.



P-"New"

In the summer of 2011 the exchange rate was almost 41 gourdes to one US dollar, i.e. 1 gourde was worth almost 2½ US cents.

These notes were originally issued with two 6-digit serial numbers (see page 151), but beginning in 2014 they were issued with one 9-digit serial number (although still bearing the *Année 2001* date).



Appendix A:
Index of Portraits

Appendix A: Index of Portraits

BÉLAIR, SANITÉ (1781?–1802): a young *affranchi* (mulatto woman) who served as a sergeant in Toussaint L’Ouverture’s army fighting general Leclerc’s French army, wife of brigade commander Charles Bélair, captured by the French. Her husband offered to exchange himself for her, but she was forced to watch as her husband was shot and then she was shot.

CAPOIS (COPPOIX), FRANÇOIS (1766–1806): revolutionary soldier, nicknamed *Capois-Le-Mort* or *Coppoix-Le-Mort*, “Capois/Coppoix the Death,” 1802 fought so bravely at Vertieres that the French called for a brief cease-fire to congratulate him and to present him with a new horse to replace the one he had lost.

DESSALINES, JEAN-JACQUES (1758–1806): black, born a slave, revolutionary soldier, principal lieutenant of Toussaint L’Ouverture, nicknamed “The Tiger,” 1802 leader of revolution after L’Ouverture’s capture, 1806 declared Haiti an empire and himself emperor JACQUES I, 1806 assassinated by dissidents. The national anthem of Haiti is *La Dessalinienne*.

DOMINGUE, MICHEL (1813–1879): army commander-in-chief, April 1874 elected president of Haiti but let his nephew and vice-president Septimius Rameau run the government, April 1876 suddenly forced to flee into exile (Rameau was killed).

DUVALIER, Dr. FRANÇOIS (“Papa Doc”) (1907–1971): black, physician, October 1957 elected president, June 1964 “elected” president-for-life, tyrant, April 1971 died in office.

DUVALIER, JEAN-CLAUDE (“Baby Doc”) (1951–): son of “Papa Doc,” April 1971 succeeded as president-for-life at age 19, February 1986 overthrown and forced into exile.

GEFFRARD, FABRE-NICHOLAS (1806–1878): general, January 1859 made himself president of Haiti, March 1867 fled into exile.

HENRI CHRISTOPHE (1767–1820): freed slave, revolutionary soldier, 1802 general under Toussaint L’Ouverture, February 1807 declared himself president and generalissimo of “State of (north) Haiti,” March 1811 declared his state to be a kingdom and himself king HENRI I, chronically at odds with Pétion’s southern Republic of Haiti, October 1820 disabled by a stroke so shot himself with a silver bullet rather than face an inevitable coup.

FLON, CATHERINE (flourished 1803): a god-daughter of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, sewed the first Haitian flag on 18 May 1803 (the last day of the conference at Arcahaie where Dessalines and Pétion agreed on a unified revolutionary army with its own flag).

FLORVILLE, (LOUIS MONDESTIN) HYPPOLITE (1828–1986): general, October 1889 installed as president by a constitutional council, March 1898 died in office.

NORD-ALEXIS, PIERRE (“Ton Ton”) (1820–1910): general, December 1902 forced assembly to elect him president, December 1908 forced to flee into exile.

PÉTION, ALEXANDRE SABÈS (1770–1818): mulatto, revolutionary soldier, October 1806 elected president of the (southern) Republic of Haiti, 1816 made himself president-for-life, March 1818 died in office of yellow fever.

SAGET, NISSAGE (1810–1880): general, March 1870 elected president, May 1874 resigned two days before the end of his term, retired into honorable private life.

SALOMON JEUNE, (LOUIS-FÉLICITÉ) LYSIUS (1815–1888): black, spent many years in exile studying abroad (mostly in France), Haitian 1859–1870 minister of Finance but then exiled again, August 1879 returned, December 1879 elected president, 1880 revitalized the National Bank, set up postal system, August 1888, overthrown, fled to exile in France.

Appendix A: Index of Portraits

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE (LOUVERTURE), FRANÇOIS DOMINIQUE (1743–1803): black, freed slave, revolutionary soldier, 1793 adopted his nickname "Louverture," drove British and Spanish out of St. Domingue, May 1797 appointed commander-in-chief of French army in St. Domingue, overran Santo Domingo, January 1801 established first constitution with himself as governor-general of St. Domingue for life, 1802 fought against French invaders but was captured May 1802 and deported to France, April 1803 died in a French prison.

VINCENT, STÉNIO (1874–1959): politician, mayor of Port-au-Prince, November 1930 elected president of Haiti, persuaded Franklin Roosevelt to withdraw American troops from Haiti, 1935 retained in office by plebiscite, May 1941 stepped down from office and retired.

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